

The Baptist Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

Thursday, January 15, 1987

Published Since 1877

Abortion alternatives

“... to offer an extension of God's love”

COLUMBUS, Ga. (BP) — When Edgewood Baptist Church opened a crisis pregnancy center in 1981, members knew very little about the challenge before them.

They learned in a hurry. The first person to walk through the center's door was a young mother of two preschoolers. She was poor, pregnant, and without hope. Earlier she had been left to fend for herself when her husband was violently killed. Now the man she had been living with had abandoned her after learning she was pregnant. Barely able to feed the two children she already had, abortion seemed the only alternative.

However, after talking with a counselor, the woman readily decided against abortion. For the next three months, Edgewood church members provided emotional and spiritual support and assisted with food and clothing for the children.

The woman committed her life to Christ and became a member of the church. She later volunteered her services at the center and has become one of its most effective counselors. She gave birth to twins, one of whom died due to lung complications. But the names she gave them were a testimony to her new lease on life: Faith and Hope.

Since that initial visit, more than 12,000 women, ranging in age from 11 to 58, have

sought help at the center. Inspired by the center's dramatic impact, the church has launched a variety of related ministries, including a self-supporting adoption agency. A training program based on Edgewood's experience has been used in the last two years to help establish similar programs in 30 Baptist churches in seven states.

While Edgewood is unique in many ways, it is not alone. Across the Southern Baptist Convention, churches and individuals are responding to the issue of abortion through education, social action, and ministry. In addition to speaking out against society's callous attitude toward abortion, more and more Southern Baptists are speaking for the sanctity of human life through active involvement in providing alternatives to abortion.

Following up on a resolution adopted at the 1984 meeting of the SBC, the Home Mission Board convened a special committee to deal with alternatives to abortion. The HMB appointed Oklahoma City physician Fred Loper as a medical consultant to help the board to assist associations and churches in ministries related to abortion.

The Christian Life Commission in 1986 introduced eight new resources related to sanctity of human life concerns. The CLC

also has promoted the observance of Sanctity of Human Life Sunday, set on the 1987 denominational calendar for January 18.

While action is taking place on many fronts, the development of crisis pregnancy centers has attracted the most interest.

Lowell Milburn, special care ministries director for the Oklahoma convention, encourages churches and associations to investigate the possibility of starting crisis pregnancy center and hotline services. “It's an opportunity to reach people in a time of need,” he says.

Like the Edgewood program, the Oklahoma centers offer a free pregnancy test. While the woman waits for the results, she views a slide show about fetal development. The presentation also includes some explanation of the abortion process. A volunteer counselor discusses with the woman the available alternatives to abortion.

The Oklahoma centers are modeled largely after the program at Edgewood which has pioneered the crisis pregnancy center ministry among Southern Baptist churches. Edgewood's center operates with a full-time director (the only paid position) and about 40 volunteers.

In 1986 about 4,000 women received counseling at the center, says associate

pastor Andy Merritt, the guiding force behind the church's pro-life ministries.

Three out of every four women who come to the clinic are unwed. More than 80 percent of the women decide to reject abortion. Merritt believes the presence of the clinic also has contributed to a reduction in the abortion rate in Columbus in recent years.

He also points out 40 percent of the girls who receive the free pregnancy test are not pregnant. Many of them are open to counseling about a Christian approach to moral values and lifestyles.

The center is complemented by other ministries. A prenatal care program is available. Through a “shepherding home” ministry, women during pregnancy can live with a Christian family. A group maternity home is on the drawing board. An adoption agency, licensed by the state in 1985, placed more than 30 babies in Christian homes in its first 18 months. An educational team gives presentations on the ministry of the center, abortion and the case for sexual abstinence outside of marriage.

“The distinctive thing about the center is not so much to save a baby, as important as that is, but to offer an extension of God's love. When the girl chooses life for her baby, we rejoice, but that's when the work really begins.”

Mission boards pledge to increase lay recruits

By Joe Westbury

ATLANTA (BP) — A plan to channel more volunteers into missions gained momentum as representatives from three Southern Baptist agencies explored new avenues for involving laity through job skills.

“Laypeople for years have wanted to be a part of the total world missions enterprise of the Southern Baptist Convention but haven't known how to participate. Now they have that opportunity through use of their vocational gifts,” explained James Smith, president of the Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission.

Representatives from the Brotherhood Commission and Southern Baptists' home and foreign mission boards met for a think-tank session and pledged mutual support.

The recruitment of volunteers for home and foreign missions will be coordinated through the recently formed National Fellowship of Baptist Men, Smith said. Although the two mission boards have endorsed the fellowship and pledged \$50,000 each during the next two years, leadership

will remain with the Brotherhood Commission.

The commission, which does not send missionaries, will recruit volunteers according to vocation and channel them to the home and foreign boards for short-term and long-term assignments.

“The challenge of evangelizing our nation cannot be met by pastors of 37,000 churches or 3,700 home missionaries. It will be volunteers from the pews who will share a radical kind of love with a lost nation,” said Robert Banks, acting president of the Home Mission Board.

“All the people who are going to help Southern Baptists reach their Bold Mission Thrust goal (of reaching the world for Christ) in the next 14 years have already been born,” Banks added. “God always does his part — he calls them. Our part is to go, and to help them go.”

While volunteer response is higher than ever, Banks said 25 percent to 30 percent of the board's requests for help cannot be met because of lack of

funds and personnel.

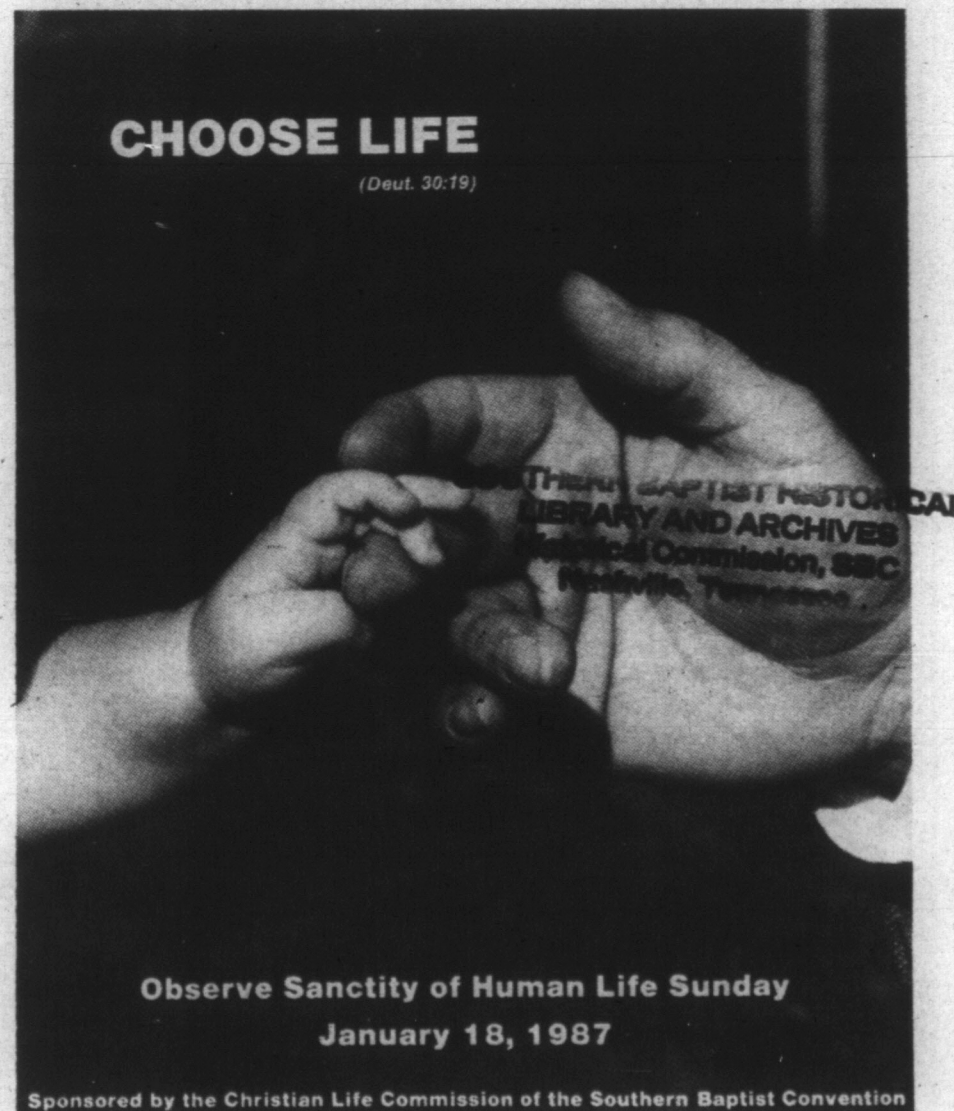
R. Keith Parks, president of the Foreign Mission Board, stressed the need for linking job skills with mission needs on an international basis.

“There is a Southern Baptist presence in 108 of the world's 243 nations, but more than half of those remaining countries will not allow us in through the traditional missionary context,” Parks said.

“I am praying that more Southern Baptists will begin to study a second language and develop cross-cultural relationships so they will be prepared when a missions opportunity presents itself. We may not always be able to share the gospel as traditional missionaries, but we will as agriculturalists, veterinarians or dozens of other professionals,” said Parks.

The National Fellowship of Baptist Men is the first nationwide effort to organize Baptist laity according to skills and interests, said Executive Director Ed Bullock.

Joe Westbury writes for the HMB.



CHOOSE LIFE
(Deut. 30:19)

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Observe Sanctity of Human Life Sunday
January 18, 1987

Sponsored by the Christian Life Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention

Editorials . . . by Don McGregor

We don't need jai alai

From time to time there is not a subject for editorial writing readily at hand. There always is something that needs to be discussed, but determining what it is sometimes takes a bit of time. While the Legislature is in session, however, there is always some matter that needs attention. Because of space and time limitations, we may not get to all of them, but they are always there, nevertheless.

Now it's time for this week's discussion.

Two more bills that have been filed in the Mississippi Senate need to be brought to the attention of Mississippi Baptists. Both were filed by George Smith of Gulfport and Thomas A. Gollott of Biloxi.

One is S 2283, which would permit jai alai wagering in counties where it is approved by a referendum. The other is S 2283, which would provide for para-mutuel wagering on jai alai and distribute the revenue.

It makes no difference whether it is on horses, a lottery, or jai alai, gamb-

ing is gambling. And that is what these two bills are all about. And we can surely rest assured that what is going on here is simply an effort to get a foot in the door. Once the door is cracked in any wise to permit gambling in any fashion, the rush will be on. The state will become fair game for every type of gambling there is.

These bills are in the Senate Finance Committee. The effort needs to be stopped immediately. The chairman of the Finance Committee is Bob Montgomery of Canton.

Readers will recall also that a bill that would pave the way for a state-operated lottery had been filed. It is SCR 502 and has been assigned to the Constitution Committee.

The chairman of this committee is George Guerieri of Southaven.

We don't have gambling in Mississippi. We don't need it. It would benefit no one but the people who run the gambling establishments. The state would get a bit of revenue from it, but not enough to pay for the extra

costs that would be generated from gambling and certainly not enough to pay for the pain and misery that it would bring.

The place to stop it is before it gets started. Now is the time to let committee members know that it is not wanted.

The gambling interests will continue to say that it is a painless tax system because only those who want to gamble are paying the freight. The problem is that a great number of people gamble who can't afford it simply because they need to get something for a small investment. They keep making these investments over and over, however, hoping the next one will click; and the returns on their investments are almost negligible. For almost all of those who invest, it is zero. Only a very few cash in. But the person who invests and doesn't cash in, which is all but a very few, may not be able to pay the light bill next month and might have to go without adequate groceries.

It happens.

Financial responsibility

The downturn in the economy of Mississippi caused 1986 Mississippi Baptist gifts through the Cooperative Program to be \$911,466 short of the budget.

The total gifts for the year were \$17,638,534, but this must be compared to a budget of \$18,550,000.

Recognizing the situation as being one that would not be changed to any great extent this year, Earl Kelly, executive secretary-treasurer of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, called for a cut in the 1987 budget of 4.91 percent. This will provide for a budget of \$18,088,534. To meet such a

budget will require a Cooperative Program giving experience of \$450,000 more than was the case last year.

Such an adjustment is responsible stewardship. There is no need to maintain a hoped-for budget figure that obviously would not be met.

The problem is not that the churches are not giving of their own income. It is indicative of the fact that church incomes have not grown as much through the past several months as had been the case earlier.

This should not be taken as a signal for the churches to become lax in missions giving. It is a recognition that gifts to the churches have not held up

as well as had been expected.

Economic conditions are somewhat depressed in Mississippi because of farm income not meeting hoped for levels and oil income being almost non-existent.

These conditions will not last forever. In the meantime there is no point in working with a budget that is built more on dreams than reality.

Mississippi Baptist's percentage commitment to missions causes will remain the same. Plans will be scaled back to meet a more realistic income expectation.

This was the only avenue available if responsibility is to be maintained.

Ed Holcomb's passing

Our attention has been called to the fact that William E. (Ed) Holcomb passed away in the spring. For some reason this had escaped our attention. We check newspaper obituaries daily but failed to see this one. His death was not called to our attention under any other condition.

Nevertheless, Holcomb died March 31, 1986, and Mississippi Baptists need to be aware of his passing. He was a brother of T. L. Holcomb, now deceased, who was president of the Sunday School Board; of Harmon Holcomb, also deceased; and of Rowe Holcomb, a retired pastor living in Hazlehurst. Their father was W. B. Holcomb, who established a number of churches in south Mississippi.

W. E. Holcomb was a native of

Poplarville. He was a graduate of Mississippi College and served as both vice-president and president for brief periods of Mississippi Women's College, now William Carey College. He was president of the board of trustees of Blue Mountain College and president of the Mississippi Baptist Convention for two terms.

Holcomb was a member of the body of trustees of the Foreign Mission Board for three years. For 66 years he was a deacon and Sunday School teacher for First Church, Tupelo; Immanuel Church, Hattiesburg; and First Church, Jackson.

He was survived by his wife; three daughters, Mrs. Charles Jones of Clinton, Mrs. Richard Turner of Hattiesburg, and Mrs. Ross Bass of

Jackson; a son, W. E. Holcomb Jr., of Alexander City, Ala.; and the surviving brother, Rowe Holcomb.

More than football

The Baptist Record does not cover sports and very seldom finds any reason to mention sports activities. During the frenzy of bowl games around New Year's Day, however, there were some interesting observations.

I have long been an admirer of Joe Paterno, football coach at Penn State, though I had no well-defined reason. I just liked his ability and his attitude as I saw it reflected on television.

Though I seldom watch a football

game unless there is some personal reason to do so, I decided to watch the game on the century, the Jan. 2 battle between No. 2 Penn State and No. 1 Miami. I was intrigued when D. J. Dozier, Penn State running back dropped to his knees in the end zone following his touchdown run. Two or three others joined him. I thought it might be for show, but when play was resumed, Dozier simply moved to the sideline and went to his knees again. The announcer noted that he is a

deeply religious person.

In a brief interview at the end of the game, Paterno had little to say about the game except to comment that he was pleased that his young men had been able to use their God-given ability to perform well.

The next day the newspaper carried an interesting Paterno quote. The score was 14 to 10 in favor of Penn State, and Miami had the ball on the Penn State 13 with fourth down. There

(Continued on page 11)

GOD WHO SLUMBERS NOT NOR SLEEPS



Guest opinion . . . In touch with grassroots Baptists

Editor's Note: The following is an editorial written by Jack Sanford, editor of the *Western Recorder*, the Baptist state paper for Kentucky. After its original publication he noted, "The pastors didn't necessarily agree with me!"

We have heard a lot about "grassroots Baptists" in recent days, but who is in touch with these elusive people?

Certainly the denominational executive is hardly in touch since most of his/her time is spent in program planning, personnel supervision and money management. He knows Baptists but is hardly an expert on "grassroots Baptists."

The state editors, though many of them come from pastoral backgrounds, are hardly in touch with grassroots Baptists in any meaningful

sense. Our time is spent gathering, organizing and disseminating news from a broad spectrum of Baptist life which gives us wide acquaintance with Baptists, but hardly superior knowledge. Pastors may be in touch with "grassroots Baptists," but here again the average pastor is concerned with his congregation, his community, his programs. His church and community may not be typical of all Baptist groups so his knowledge of "grassroots Baptists" is limited.

The one person in Baptist life who is most likely to be in touch with "grassroots Baptists" is the director of missions. He is the one person who has continual contact with pastors from a wide geographical area and churches of every description. If anyone knows Baptists it should be the

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The Baptist Record

VOLUME 110

(ISSN-0005-5778)

NUMBER 47

Published weekly except weeks of July 4 and Christmas: Subscription \$7.35 a year payable in advance. Second class postage paid at Jackson, Mississippi. The Baptist Record is a member of Southern Baptist Press Association.

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Meeting has topics to pique interests

The upcoming Evangelism-Bible Conference set for Feb. 2-4 at Calvary Church, Jackson, will feature a series of special interest sessions, including aspects of salvation, witnessing through music ministry, and prayer for spiritual awakening.

Participants will be able to choose two of the ten offerings during the conference which begins at 6:45 p.m., Monday, Feb. 2 and concludes at 11:10 a.m., Wednesday, Feb. 4.

Four of the sessions will focus on various aspects of preaching and teaching salvation. Brian Harbourn, pastor of Emmanuel Church, Little Rock, will lead the session on salvation as regeneration. Bill Tolar of Southwestern Seminary will speak on salvation as growth. Stuart Arnold, pastor emeritus of Citadel Square Church, Charleston, S.C., will speak on the future dimension of salvation. And Cecil Randall of New Orleans Seminary will speak on salvation as good news to be shared.

Darrell King of the Home Mission Board will lead a session on preaching and teaching prayer for spiritual awakening. Louis Nicolosi, minister of music at First Church, Purvis, and Myrna Loy Hedgepeth, a Jackson-based music evangelist, will lead a session on the music ministry and one-to-one witnessing.

Keith Wilkinson, director of the Mississippi Baptist Sunday School Department, will speak on using outreach Bible study to win unsaved youths and adults. Carl Savell, national consultant for Interfaith Witness for the HMB, will speak on how to witness to people in cults and other faiths.

Jim White, church administration consultant at the Sunday School Board, will speak on how to provide pastoral leadership for evangelist. And Sue Tatum of Yazoo City will speak on how to witness through home, family, and neighborhood.

Newell resigns seminary for Alabama pastorate

By Art Toalston

RICHMOND, Va. (BP) — Mississippian J. Altus Newell, president of the International Baptist Theological Seminary in Ruschlikon, Switzerland, has announced his resignation to become the pastor of a church in Alabama.

Newell's decision came after members of Dawson Memorial Baptist Church in Birmingham voted unanimously Dec. 21 to call him as their pastor.

He will resign as seminary president and as a Southern Baptist missionary March 10.

Prior to his missionary appointment to Switzerland in July 1984, Newell had been pastor of First Baptist Church of Opelika, Ala., for two years and pastor of St. Matthews Baptist Church in Louisville, Ky., from 1975 to 1982.

"I have just really missed being a pastor," Newell said in a telephone interview the day after agreeing to lead

the 6,900-member church in Birmingham.

The seminary's six-member executive board will meet Feb. 20-21 and likely will name a search committee for Newell's successor, said Isam Ballenger, one of two executive board members representing the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board, which jointly sponsors the seminary with the European Baptist Federation. Ballenger is director of Southern Baptist missions work in Europe and the Middle East.

Sixty-five students from six continents are enrolled at the seminary. This year, the number of students from Europe has increased threefold. The seminary has eight faculty members, including four Southern Baptist missionaries.

Newell, 42, a native of Meridian, Miss., and his wife, Diane, a Jackson, Miss., native, have three children, Sarah, 13; Amanda, 10; and Justin, 7.

Art Toalston writes for the FMB.

Harry Lee Spencer, former foundation chief, dies

Harry Lee Spencer, 94, former executive secretary of the Mississippi Baptist Foundation, died Jan. 10 in Fort Worth, Tex.



Spencer

His funeral was Jan. 14 at First Church, Jackson, with burial at Lakewood Memorial Park.

Spencer began his work at the Foundation in 1950 and retired in 1967.

A native of Carroll County, he was a graduate of Baylor University and earned the master of theology and doctor of theology degrees from Southwestern Seminary. Howard

Payne College in Texas awarded him an honorary doctorate. Spencer organized what was to become the first BSU at Baylor University in 1918.

Pastorates included Immanuel Church, Hattiesburg; College Avenue Church, Fort Worth; and First Church, Brownwood, Tex.

He is survived by his son, Harry Lee Spencer Jr., of Huntsville, Ala.; daughter, Mrs. Grace Clemson of Fort Worth; a sister, Miss Margrete Spencer, of Clinton; brothers, H. C. Spencer of Clinton and John A. Spencer of Hattiesburg; seven grandchildren, and 10 great grandchildren.

Memorials may be made to the Baptist Children's Village.

The Second Front Page

The Baptist Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

Thursday, January 15, 1987

Published Since 1877

SBC execs respond to new board

By Marv Knox

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — The Genesis Commission, an organization founded by conservative Southern Baptists to help start new churches, deals "with the very heart of who we are as Southern Baptists," the denomination's foreign missions leader responded.

R. Keith Parks, president of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board, said he would welcome an opportunity to meet with Genesis Commission leaders and share with them the nature and scope of the board's work.

The commission has been chartered by three Southern Baptists: Randy Best, a layman and member of Second Baptist Church in Houston; Bill Darnell, former pastor of Kirby Woods Baptist Church in Memphis, Tenn., and executive director of the new organization; and John Morgan, pastor of Sagemont Baptist Church in Houston. The other known commission board member is Paige Patterson, president of the Criswell Center for Biblical Studies in Dallas.

Some observers have seen the Genesis Commission as potentially in opposition to the Foreign Mission Board in two areas.

Competition

First is competition for funds from supporting Southern Baptists. The board receives support from the convention's Cooperative Program unified budget and from the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering, taken in Southern Baptist churches. Because the Genesis Commission is avowedly Southern Baptist, observers and some board supporters have said they fear support for the commission will come from potential support for the board.

Darnell told Baptist Press his group is not in competition with the board and he believes Southern Baptists have enough money to support both ministries. "Although no gift would be refused, there is no plan to go to the churches to seek their gifts," Patterson added.

Second is a perceived disparagement of the board's broader ministries — such as agricultural expertise, medical aid, and education — by Genesis Commission leaders, who have designed their organization strictly to start churches.

"We're thrilled about whatever the Foreign Mission Board does as it relates to sharing the gospel," Darnell said. He noted the commission's emphasis on church starting is "not a reflection on these other ministries;

(Continued on page 4)

Will became model

By Harold Kitchings

Executive secretary

Mississippi Baptist Foundation

The late Hugh Lee Simmons of Centerville, had a concern for the formal training of students preparing for the ministry. Therefore, he made provision in his will drawn up in 1958, for a sizable portion of his estate to come to the Mississippi Baptist Foundation.

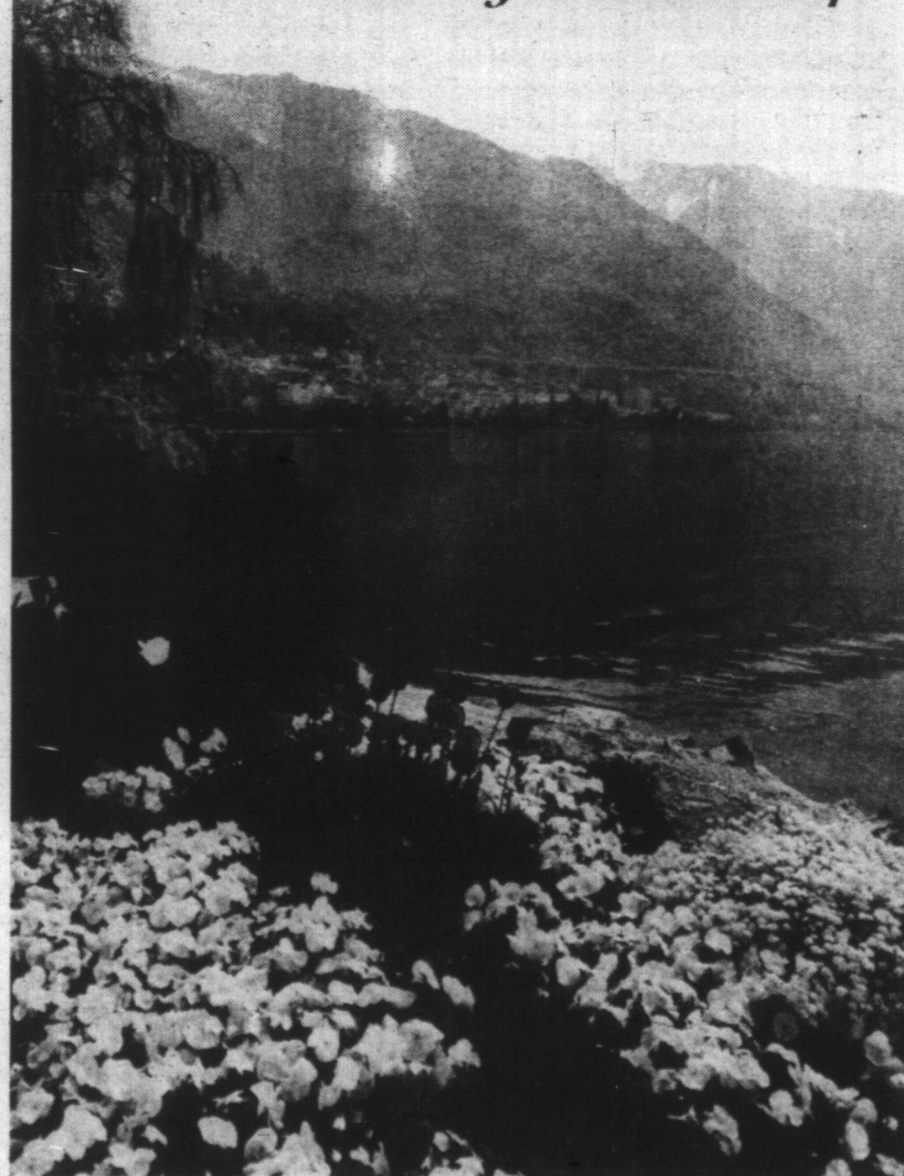
After his decease in 1965, the executor of his estate delivered to Harry L. Spencer, then executive secretary of the Foundation, assets totaling \$33,414.82, for the above stated purpose. From this fund, at least 55 students have received financial assistance while attending one of our Southern Baptist seminaries. Because this fund balance has now appreciated in value to \$51,690.89 as of Sept. 30, 1986, approximately ten scholarships are issued each semester at one of our seminaries.

The recipients of these scholarships are selected in keeping with the four guidelines set forth in the will: namely; (1) sound in Christian character, habits, and standards of Christian living; (2) sound in their conviction as to a definite calling as a minister for pastoral or missionary work in either the evangelistic, teaching, nursing, or other medical fields; (3) in definite need of financial assistance; and, (4) sound in scholarship.

Because Simmons' will requires a pledge from the recipient of the scholarship that the money be repaid if the recipient renounces his calling, the trustees of the Mississippi Baptist Foundation looked with such favor on this requirement that this policy was adopted for all seminary student scholarships.

Thus, once more, the testimony of a Christian lives on through his will.

A CHRISTIAN WILL: Growing In Stewardship



January is Make Your Will Month

SBC execs respond to . . . Creation science debated in U.S. Supreme Court

(Continued from page 3)
it does not mean we feel they are wrong."

"I was amazed . . . that this would have to be viewed competitively," Patterson said. "We didn't see it that way at all. Randy Best is a new Baptist, and he was totally innocent of wanting to do anything competitive."

The genesis of the Genesis Commission actually has nothing to do with being competitive with either (foreign or home mission) board or with the present political conflict within the convention, other than I suppose it is inevitable that anybody involved would have some position on what is going on in the convention."

Both Genesis Commission and Foreign Mission Board leaders said they are attempting to set a date for a meeting between the two groups.

Parks said he particularly feels a conference between commission leaders and board officials is in order. He explained he wants "them to get a little clearer understanding about what we do. I don't think they fully appreciate the focus we're making on evangelism and the starting of churches."

Southern Baptists' foreign force of more than 3,700 missionaries includes a variety of specialists, such as doctors, business managers, and musicians, but the missionary preacher is considered the backbone of the effort, Parks said. All missionaries, regardless of specialty, are expected to practice personal evangelism and to encourage church growth, he added, also noting the board has not started hospitals or schools — about which some observers had seen the Genesis Commission as being critical — for a long time.

Parks said that the ratio of baptisms to church members in overseas churches related to the board runs 12 to 1, far better than the 42 to 1 ratio in the Southern Baptist Convention.

In 1985, overseas churches baptized 158,626 people, an average of 435 per day. Membership in those churches

surpassed 2 million, and the number of churches increased to 15,635, a gain of almost 6 percent over 1984. Counting chapels and preaching points, which are the churches of the future, the total was almost 33,000.

However, other ministries are vital to such evangelism, Parks said. "We feel that training leadership through seminaries and training membership through the production of literature is really supportive of the evangelistic church-starting thrust."

Noting the potential for competition between the board and the commission, he said: "The only support we have comes from Southern Baptists. If they (the Genesis Commission) go to the same Southern Baptists for support, I can't see it as being anything else than direct competition."

"I also feel that since our convention, according to our constitution and our history, has organized around missions, that when someone sets out to form a new mission board, I think they're dealing with the very heart of who we are as Southern Baptists, and I think it is a development we should be very concerned about."

"I think it comes down to the question of whether we are committed to cooperative efforts inclusive of the wide range of Southern Baptist interests, or whether we want to trim back from that stream of Southern Baptist life and focus on restrictive viewpoints."

News of the formation of the Genesis Commission also drew response from Carolyn Weatherford, national executive director of the Southern Baptist Woman's Missionary Union.

"The foundational commitment of Woman's Missionary Union is to undergird Southern Baptist home and foreign mission endeavors," Weatherford said. "Our whole organization of 1.2 million women and girls is dedicated to supporting mission causes that Southern Baptists undertake cooperatively."

"We always are pleased to see other

denominations and other organizations who are eager to win the world for Christ," she added.

"However, we will remain unwaveringly committed to supporting only those missions enterprises that have been undertaken in the cooperative manner for which Southern Baptists are so well respected."

Southern Baptist Convention President Adrian Rogers said he had not been aware of the Genesis Commission until news reports of the organization began to circulate just before Christmas. Rogers, pastor of Bellevue Baptist Church in Memphis, said he had never spoken to Darnell, formerly a fellow pastor in Memphis, about the commission.

"I'm in favor of anybody trying to impact the world for Jesus Christ," Rogers said, noting that "must be the motive of Bill Darnell" and his colleagues.

"At the same time, I am grateful for Southern Baptists' cooperative effort" at conducting mission work across the United States and around the world, he said. He called the Cooperative Program a "remarkable plan for spreading the gospel of Christ."

The Genesis Commission is "not part of a concerted conservative effort in the Southern Baptist Convention that I know of," Rogers told Baptist Press. "I would not want this to be perceived as an anti-denominational effort."

He added: "We always have had ancillary (missions) efforts within the Southern Baptist Convention. We have a history of this." He pointed to previous lay missions efforts by former SBC President Owen Cooper and former foreign missionary "Dub" Jackson.

On a positive note, Rogers said he sees more cohesion by Southern Baptist conservatives around convention causes, "because of our cohesion theologically." He predicted Southern Baptists may be moving into their greatest age of missions endeavors.

Marv Knox is BP feature editor.

Professor to lecture on Bible, worship

John T. Durham, professor of Hebrew and Old Testament at Southeastern Seminary in Wake Forest, N.C., will be the guest lecturer in a three-day seminar at Northside Church, Clinton, Jan. 16-18.



On Friday and Saturday evenings the lectures begin at 6:30 p.m. In addition, Durham will preach in both the 8 and 10:30 a.m. worship services on Sunday.

He serves on the Governor's Committee on Art and Religion in his home state of North Carolina, and has written a book on Rembrandt.

For more information call the church office at 924-4555 or the pastor, John L. Stanley at 924-1579.

Events for singles set across Mississippi

A number of events relating to single adults in the church are set for the next several months across Mississippi. These include sessions on Parenting by Grace for single parents, a spring singles' retreat, single adult leadership conferences, and a divorce recovery seminar.

Dianne Warren Swaim will lead a "Parenting by Grace" seminar for single parents at Alta Woods Church, Jackson, Jan. 30-31.

Parenting by Grace is a seminar for applying biblical principles to child rearing. This seminar will focus on the special applications for one-parent homes. Dianne Swaim is a former minister to singles at Main Street Church, Hattiesburg.

Program registration fee is \$10 which includes a Saturday meal and workbook for the three sessions. Child

care is available at the church for a fee if requested by Jan. 20. To register or obtain details on child care, contact J. Clark Hensley, single adult consultant, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, Box 530, Jackson, Miss. 39205, phone 968-3800.

The annual spring Gulfshore Singles Retreat, May 15-17, will feature Dan Crawford of Southwestern Seminary. The conference will offer sessions of concern to single adults — never married, widowed, or divorced.

There will be nine area one-day Single Adult Leadership Conferences, places and dates to be announced later.

And First Church, Jackson, will offer a Divorce Recovery and Christian Growth Seminar, Mar. 13-14. There is no registration fee.

Creation science debated in U.S. Supreme Court

By Stan Hastey

WASHINGTON (BP) — A simmering national debate over the validity of teaching "creation science" in public school classrooms came to the U.S. Supreme Court Dec. 10. Justices must decide whether the hotly disputed discipline amounts to true science or religion.

The high court heard oral arguments in a case challenging the constitutionality of a Louisiana law requiring "balanced treatment" in the teaching of creationism and evolution as theories for the origins of the universe. The justices could send the dispute back to lower courts before deciding the basic questions at a later time.

That option was urged upon the justices by a special assistant attorney general for Louisiana, Wendell R. Bird of Atlanta, who argued a federal court of appeals erred by not accepting as true what he called "uncontroverted evidence" presented by expert witnesses that creation science is indeed scientifically valid. Bird said the case should be sent back to the 5th Circuit Court of Appeals in New Orleans with instructions to weigh that evidence in making a new ruling.

The lower panel held last year that Louisiana's law, "The Balanced Treatment for Creation-Science and Evolution-Science Act," violates the First Amendment's ban on an establishment of religion. The vote in that decision was 8-7.

Asked by Justice Sandra Day O'Connor if the Constitution permits the teaching of a purely religious concept to balance what is perceived to be an anti-religious view, Bird refused to concede creation science is a

religious concept, a key argument throughout his half-hour presentation.

When asked by new Justice Antonin Scalia if creation science requires the teaching of a personal God, Bird replied with an emphatic "no." Creation science, he elaborated, requires neither belief in a creator-God nor the account of creation in the book of Genesis.

But in a lengthy exchange with Justice John Paul Stevens, Bird reluctantly acknowledged the categories of creationism and evolution are mutually exclusive, thus requiring a basic choice between them.

Arguing the high court should uphold the lower court rulings, American Civil Liberties Union attorney Jay Topkis of New York City admonished the justices to heed the late Justice Felix Frankfurter's view that when legislative purpose is questioned, the "plain language" of the disputed law be taken at face value.

In an unusually animated presentation — at one point likening opposing attorney Bird to Tweedledum, a less than brilliant character in "Alice in Wonderland" — Topkis heaped ridicule on the notion that the Louisiana legislature's purpose was anything but religious. Reading definitions of "creation" from different editions of Webster's New International Dictionary, he deflected questions from several justices with short, tart replies.

A decision in the case is expected by early July 1987.

Stan Hastey writes for the Baptist Press Washington bureau.

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BR2

Letters to the editor

Thursday, January 15, 1987

BAPTIST RECORD PAGE 5

Letters to the editor must be limited to 300 words and the editor reserves the right to trim those that are longer. Editorial prerogatives must be reserved under all circumstances, and the opinions of the letter writers do not necessarily reflect the views of the staff of the Baptist Record. Only signed letters will be used, but the writer may request that his name be withheld.

Sunflower building

Editor:

Back in July, there was a letter in the Record appealing for help for a black church that had burned to the ground in Sunflower, Miss. Many people, several organizations, and businesses responded generously. Gifts came from as far away as Anchorage, Alaska. Among those contributing from our state were the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, Brotherhoods of the Warren County Baptist Association, Highland Baptist Church, Mid-South Lumber Company of Vicksburg, Shaw Lumber Company of Shaw, and many individuals.

Our Brotherhood became interested in the plight of those folks. Under the leadership of the Holy Spirit, and with the support and participation of our pastor, Bill Patten, we put that interest into action.

On Friday, Oct. 31, and Saturday Nov. 1, our Brotherhood group, five on Friday and 13 on Saturday, went to Sunflower, with our working clothes on. We raised a 30 x 50 ft. building from a concrete slab, blacked it in, installed the windows, and locked the doors when we left late Saturday afternoon. We had a great time of fellowship and feel that we were the ones that received a blessing.

Much remains to be done. We have the labor available to do the work, but funds are needed to purchase the exterior siding and sheetrock and insulation to finish the inside of the church. We feel that somewhere a fellowship has used pews or theater-type seats they no longer need.

Planters Bank and Trust Company of Sunflower, Miss., 38778, is handling contributions. More information may be had by contacting Mayor Joel Parker, Sunflower, Miss., (Phone No. 569-3124).

The pastor of this church, New Zion Rock, asked that we express his appreciation and that of his congregation to all that have helped. He also said, "I am 63 years old, and never in all my life have I seen anything like this."

Jackie Bourn
Highland Baptist Brotherhood
Vicksburg

Dedicated offering

Editor:

Prior to the Week of Prayer for Foreign Missions, the wife and daughter of missionary George Senter of Liberia were murdered. Since George had relatives in our church, we were led to dedicate our offering this year in memory of Libby and Rachel Senter. A goal of \$4,000 was set; the highest in the history of our church, and the challenge to raise it in one day was accepted by our congregation. I wanted to report that we had success, and by the end of December we had given \$4,617.50. We praise God for His goodness! I would ask fellow Mississippians to continue to uphold the Senter family in prayer.

Ed J. Deuschle, pastor
Trinity Church
Fulton

What next?

Editor:

I have not ever written a letter like this before, but I feel that I must say something and take a stand.

Regarding the cross that such a small minority had taken away from us on the Sillers Building in Jackson:

Shame on us as Christians for letting this happen. I have always read, thought, and believed that this wonderful country of ours was founded on religious freedom for all. Now it seems this is not true. Isn't Christianity a religion also? Aren't our beliefs and freedoms being abused? Don't we as Christians have the same rights, as other beliefs do? I understand that the cross was on a state Building; but if this trend continues, we won't be seeing Santa Claus, Christmas trees, even Peter Rabbit and Easter eggs for very long.

Today, a state building, tomorrow the Christmas displays in store windows, Christmas Carols not being heard on the radio or TV. The day after that, it could be our own homes that are invaded and the joy and promise that Christmas brings cut off there too. It has to stop somewhere!

I believe it is time for Christians to stand up and be counted! If we do then eight or nine people will not be able to dominate a whole city. Just think: a city now, then a state, then a whole country. This must not be allowed to happen!

Lets make our voices heard, Christians!

The cross to me is a sign of HOPE, PEACE, JOY, and GOOD WILL to all peoples, not just Christians.

If we, as Christians, let this happen without, at least, voicing an opinion, I shudder to think what may be ahead for us all.

Peggy Nelms
Saucier

Children's homes

Editor:

I was shocked to learn in your Dec. 4 editorial that our Mississippi Baptist Children's Village has voluntarily licensed itself with the state even though it is not required to do so. I consider this a betrayal of our Baptists forefathers, Bunyan, Williams, Leland, Backus, and countless other who suffered rather than submit to control by the state.

There are plenty of laws on the books to punish child abusers now and including all fire, safety, sanitary, and health codes which apply to private homes as well as Christian children's homes. In fact, the laws on the books did not prevent the death of a child in north Mississippi after signs of abuse were noted at school and reported. What caused her death were not a lack of laws but the report not being followed up on by the Welfare Department. You would think the state and the Welfare Department has enough that they should legitimately do rather than take on the additional chore of policing church ministries. After all, the licensing of a day care center by California did not prevent the sexual abuse of numerous children there.

Licensing Christians homes for children will only substitute the moral and religious values of the social worker in charge for those of the church. Many social workers are single and know as much about raising children as Dr. Spock. Even worse, when the ACLU gets in on the act, as they surely will when the state takes full control of our church homes for children, they will be running these homes.

If there is one incident of abuse as normally understood in the Bible Belt at Bethesda, I wish you would tell us. I certainly paddle my children, lock them in at night, and try to instill a knowledge of Christian values and their need for personal salvation.

Mrs. Marilyn Porter
Ellisville

Your letter was a bit too long to use all of it, so I will mention a part of what had to be deleted. Perhaps the editorial was not well phrased to suggest that the people of the state are able to care for minor children through state officials. That surely was not meant to imply that I would be for state officials running children's homes. It means that the people would provide for the welfare of the children by deciding how it should be done and then officials would be sure that minimum standards were adhered to. The clinker in the whole thing as it now stands is that while no doubt church groups are well able and willing to care for such children, we all know that any group of people could establish a children's home for whatever purpose they desired, and at this time they would be responsible to no one except for the circumstances you mention above. If we don't need laws to protect us from ourselves or from someone else, then we need no laws at all.

And I am sure that Paul Nunnery would be glad to explain to Mississippi Baptists any time why he feels that Mississippi Baptist Children's Home should be licensed, though licensing makes no difference in its procedures. — Editor

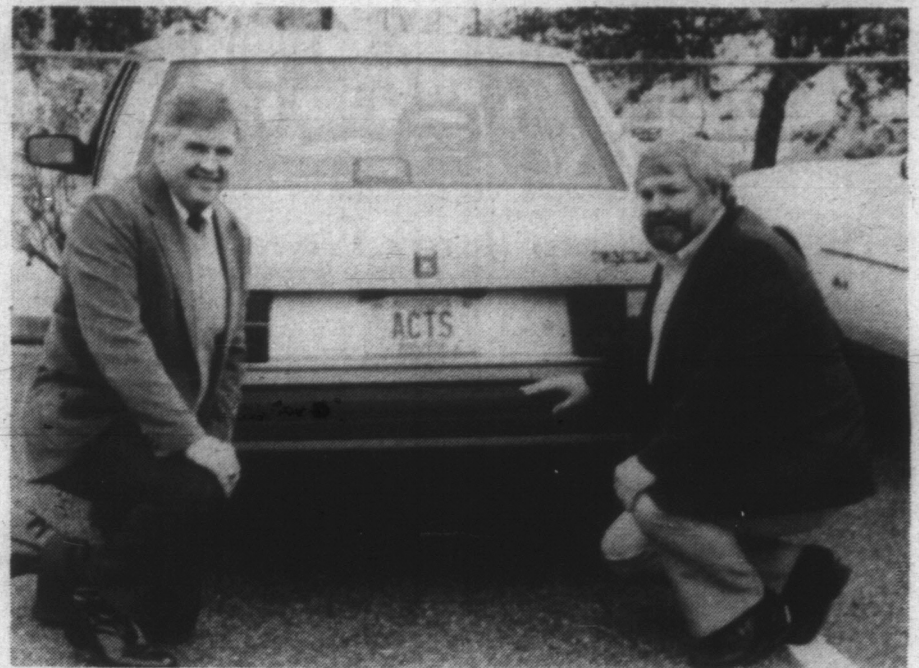
Alcohol a disease?

Editor:

This is a reply to a letter dated Dec. 18, 1986, in the Baptist Record from some one who was writing about alcoholism being a disease. The person withheld the name but was replying to what Mrs. Myrtle M. Carroll said about alcoholism not being a disease and that the alcoholic must depend on the Lord. "Withheld by request" wondered how educated Mrs. Carroll was in the field of medicine. Well, let me answer this for her.

My name is Kennie Patterson. I have spent my whole life from the age of about 15 till I got saved at the age of 24 addicted to drugs. I have been to the very best treatment centers in this state, the best doctors, and so far have spent over nine years of my life locked in prison because of drugs. I want you to know that nothing could help me but the Lord Jesus Christ. I have worked here at the prison at the treatment center. The Bible says that there is one God and one way to God and that is only through the name of Jesus.

If you would read your Bible you
(Continue on page 6)



'Rolling billboard' promotes ACTS

Bob Nance, local ACTS Board chairman in Cleveland, believes in promoting ACTS (American Christian Television System). Nance (right) is showing Farrell Blankenship, state ACTS director, his new specialized license tag that will be a rolling billboard to help promote ACTS in his community and throughout the state. Nance is an active member of First Church, Cleveland, where he helps direct, along with Rusty Holcomb, minister of youth/media, their local television programming as well as directing a local ACTS program. He also serves as an approved worker with the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's Department of Broadcast Services, which is directed by Blankenship.

Time set aside to teach those with not enough time

A one-day seminar is set for those in church work who have "not enough time." It will take place Jan. 22 at Woodland Hills Church in Jackson, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The seminar is designed especially for church business administrators, and ministers of education, youth, and music. Additionally, there will be a special interest session for persons in the church responsible for food service, banquets, receptions, and weddings.

Tim Holcomb, church administration consultant at the Baptist Sunday School Board, will be seminar leader speaking on time management skill development.

Other leaders include Bob McKee, minister of church services at Broadmoor Church, Jackson, and Rachel Majors, former church hostess at First Church, Jackson.

For more information and to register for the meeting for which there is no charge, contact Julius Thompson, Department of Church Administration-Pastoral Ministries, Box 530, Jackson, Miss. 39205, phone 968-3800.

Parenting by Grace has leaders

Ninety-five leaders from 54 churches and 30 associations gathered in Jackson Dec. 11-12 for an intensive look at the Southern Baptist Parenting by Grace program and committed themselves to teaching in their own churches, neighboring churches, and associations. An additional 509 persons attending Fall Interpretation Workshops from 109 churches.

Plans are being made now for Parenting by Grace courses in at least the following associations, (with 30 of the associations listed sponsoring associational seminars) Adams, Alcorn, Calhoun, Chickasaw, Clarke, Clay, Copiah, Gulfcoast, Hinds-Madison, Holmes, Humphreys, Itawamba, Jones, Lauderdale, Lawrence, Leake, Lebanon, Leflore, Lincoln, Lowndes, Marion, Marshall, Mississippi, Monroe, North Delta, Panola, Pearl River, Pike, Rankin, Simpson, Sunflower, Tallahatchie, Walthall, Warren, and Winston.

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The year of our Lord 1987

Didn't you know I'd tell about the rose,
the winter rose?
It pleased God to let it bloom out of season
without reason.
Certainly I had little to do with it.
The rose hung there lit
a bright orange color, waving in the wind.
It did not bend
in many heavy rains from November
all through December.
The pretty petals did not shatter into space
until another stem took its place,
the same old bush, another rose,
there it grows.
I see a beautiful baby, and a new year.
Time is dear
to tell the world our Saviour is near.

—Violet Tackett, McComb

Don't race

Don't race through life at high speed,
There are many things for you to see.
Green forests and rushing glens
Quiet talks with all your friends.

Don't miss the counsel of the aged.
The beauty of dawn at break of day.
Don't miss the smile of a child,
With joy and love in his eyes.

Most of all — don't miss God —
Travel slow whoever you are.
The person who races through life
Pays in what he misses, a precious price.

—Iva Belle Pittman
Pascagoula

Jehovah, our God

Jehovah, our God
Is faithful and true
Renews our strength daily
Makes everything new.

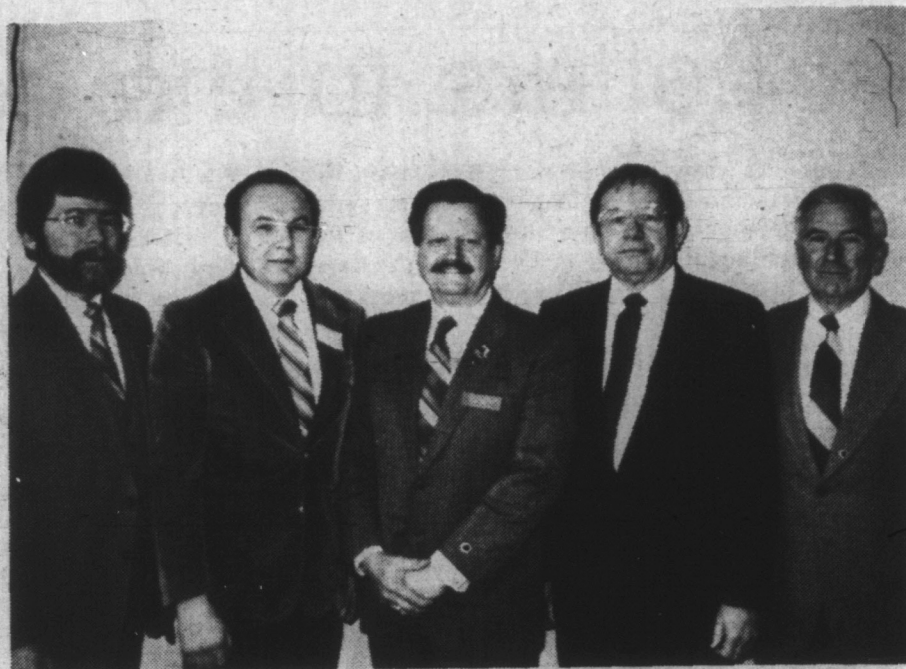
He never deceives us
By telling us lies
He's infinite goodness
Compassionate, wise.

He never casts down
But always lifts up
He fills up our basket
Runs over our cup.

He gives us good gifts
Beginning with life
He gives us our children
Our husband, our wife.

He loves us completely
He gives us our bread
Puts clothes on our body
Roofs over our head.

For all his great gifts
Our payment is small
Tho' we e'er love him dearly
And give him our all.
—Hellen Vaughn,
Ratliff



Bivocational pastor leaders meet

The National Council for Bivocational Ministries met recently in Jackson for their annual meeting. The 40 participants dealt with strengthening churches and starting new work with a multi-staff of bivocational ministers; helping bivocational staff persons grow; and networking with other denominations, state conventions and SBC agencies.

Pictured from left to right: Dave Bennett, bivocational pastor, Durango, Colo.; Wayne Stiles, president of National Council for Bivocational Ministries, Mount Vernon, Wash.; Dale Holloway, national consultant for bivocational ministries, Florence; Quentin Lockwood, director of Rural/Urban Section of Home Mission Board, and Louie Odom, layman, Brandon. Odom and Bennett are members of the Home Mission Board.

Christians accounted for 69 percent of the world's urban population in 1900; today they total only 46 percent, reports missions researcher David Barrett. By 2050, he estimates they will represent just 38 percent.

If you always live with those who are lame, you will yourself learn to limp — Latin Proverb

Alcohol a disease?

(Continued from page 5)

would read in Galatians 5:21 that a drunkard would not inherit the Kingdom of God. Why do you think, if it was a disease, God would keep you out of Heaven for this? Why does it not say cancer as well? If it is a disease then it is the only one that is sold in a can, and the only one without a bacterial cause, and the only one that is self inflicted.

The Lord Jesus Christ doesn't need some man-made help to deliver you from this sin. All that you have to do is to give him your life and make him Lord. Jesus is Lord and the best doctor you'd ever need, even if it were a disease.

Kenneth Patterson
41365 Unit 12
Parchman, MS 38738

Court won't reconsider Vatican ambassador

By Stan Hastey

WASHINGTON (BP) — Opponents of renewed diplomatic relations between the United States and the Roman Catholic Church lost a last-ditch effort to challenge the new arrangement at the Supreme Court Dec. 9.

Responding as it normally does to petitions for reconsideration of cases already rejected, the court issued a one-line order declining such a petition from the American Baptist Churches, U.S.A., and other religious bodies and leaders.

The routine action ends an unsuccessful three-year bid to have federal courts invalidate President Ronald Reagan's appointment of two ambassadors to the Holy See and the latter's sending of Archbishop Pio Laghi as papal pro-nuncio to the U.S.

Following Reagan's January 1984 appointment of William A. Wilson as ambassador to the Holy See, 20 religious groups and more than 80 individuals filed suit against the president in the U.S. District Court for Eastern Pennsylvania. That panel ruled in May 1985 that plaintiffs had

no legal standing to bring the suit and that even if standing had been granted the challenge would have been disallowed because the president alone is given the authority under the Constitution to conduct foreign policy.

Despite the high court's refusal to reconsider its Oct. 20 rejection of the appeal, representatives of organizations that mounted the legal challenge were quick to promise further action.

Robert L. Maddox, executive director of Americans United for Separation of Church and State, issued a

statement pledging to press Congress for the relief denied by the courts: "We intend to seek a legislative remedy in Congress and to make sure the public understands the harm it is suffering today. I have no doubt that eventually the truth will prevail. My only regret is that such an egregious violation was ever allowed to take place.

This action shows once again that if Americans want to keep their rights, they have to fight for them."

Stan Hastey writes for the Washington bureau of Baptist Press.

Baptismal results are in for '86

PACE SETTERS IN BAPTISMAL RATIO

Church	Pastor	Members/ Baptisms	(Baptisms per 100 Mem.) Ratio
Greater True Vine, Jackson	Amzie Cotton	62/50	80.4
North Hills Mission, Gulfport	Stan Cruse	12/ 7	58.3
Primera Igl. Bautista	Miguel Gonzales	20/11	55.5
Thompson Hill Mission, McLain	Dan Hembree	27/14	51.8
Faith Obedience, Gulfport	Frank Breshears	19/ 9	47.3
Parkview, Leland	Tommy Cherry	136/61	44.8
Midway, Cleveland	Terry Owens	30/10	33.3
Hamilton, Falkner	Clayton Littlejohn	70/23	32.8
Beulah, Belzoni	Bill McLendon	43/14	32.5
Mars Hill, Moselle	William H. Brown	172/51	29.6
Bayside Park, Lakeshore	Don Creel	38/11	28.9
Korean Mission, Biloxi	Woong Ho Song	40/10	25.0
Forest Hill Mission, Booneville	Keith Clayton	65/16	24.6
New Hope, Natchez	B. L. Calcote	33/ 8	24.2
Oak Hill, Blue Mountain	Jerry Garrison	53/12	22.6

State average is 2.4 baptisms per 100 members, 8 Baptisms per church, or 1 baptism for every 42 members.

Total baptisms reported in Mississippi for 1986 was 15,306. Total for 1985 was 14,890. This is a 2.8 percent increase.

PACE SETTERS IN TOTAL BAPTISMS

Church	Pastor	Total
First, Jackson	Frank Pollard	137
Colonial Heights, Jackson	J. Gerald Harris	106
Fairview, Columbus	Mickey Dalrymple	95
Van Winkle, Jackson		94
Parkway, Houston	Don Wileman	90
Goodrum, Vicksburg	Dwight Turner	77
Northcrest, Meridian	Malcolm Lewis	73
Broadmoor, Jackson	Jim Futral	72
Oakhurst, Clarksdale	Tommy Tutor	72
Parkview, Greenville	Dan Robertson	71
McDowell Road, Jackson	Gary Rivers	67
Colonial Hills, Southaven	Tommy Vinson	65
Crossgates, Brandon	Davis Odom	65
Parkview, Leland	Tommy Cherry	61
First Baptist Church of D'Iberville	Wayne Myers	57

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The habitual use of booze and drugs

Are there more instances of dual addiction today?

If you mean, are there more people who are dependent upon different kinds of drugs and, also, alcohol, than in the past, the answer is "yes." Habitually using alcohol and other drugs at the same time, many people become cross-addicted. Drugs used may be prescribed medications or drugs obtained from various sources. The person addicted to alcohol only shows up less frequently in treatment centers than persons with multi-drug problems. People of different age and social groups have their drugs of preference. Complex personal and social problems accompany habitual drug usage. This is one of the realities

on the drug scene today. However, one should not lose sight of the central problem: chemical dependency. Often, where there is dual addiction, there is usually a need for treatment. Spouses and children of chemically dependent persons may profit from family treatment programs. Understanding church members are capable of extending tremendous support to persons beset with problems related to chemical use.

Questions addressed to Intensive Care are forwarded to Chaplain Joe Stovall at the Mississippi Baptist Medical Center. Inquiries should be addressed to Intensive Care, Baptist Record, Box 530, Jackson, Miss. 39205.

Missouri laymen unite against SBC controversy

By Trennis Henderson

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (BP) — Seeking to "bring things back to what our heritage is" as Southern Baptists, a group of Missouri Baptists in the Kansas City area have founded an organization called "Missouri Laymen United."

Spearheaded by Jo Ellen Witt, a member of First Baptist Church of Weston, the not-for-profit corporation is at least the third such organization to surface in recent weeks. Texas and Florida Baptists have also organized.

Witt told Word & Way, newsjournal of the Missouri Baptist Convention, the statement of purpose for Missouri Laymen United is "to seek to preserve Baptist heritage and principles in the Southern Baptist Convention through an informed, concerned laity working together in unity of spirit and faith."

Acknowledging that "some people might feel threatened" by the organization, Witt insisted it is designed "basically for peace. We want to get peace back within the convention."

The group held its first public forum at Second Baptist Church of Liberty, inviting "a couple of laymen from all the churches in the area where we felt like the pastors would be supportive of what we were doing," Witt explained. That meeting, which attracted more than 100 people, featured presentations by Gordon Kingsley, president of William Jewell College in Liberty; Mary Lois Sanders, a former Southern Baptist missionary to Brazil; Wanda Haworth, a Southern Baptist Home Mission Board trustee and a member of Centertown Baptist Church in Centertown; and Bob Perry, director

of missions for Clay-Platte Baptist Association.

Witt, who is chairman of the Missouri organization, emphasized, "Laymen have got to get involved to educate other laymen. As laymen, we can do that."

My job is not threatened by what we do. A pastor, missionary, or seminary professor can't do this."

Witt described herself as "a totally uneducated layman" prior to attending her first SBC annual meeting in Dallas in 1985. She said she was distressed by "the political nature of everything, the antagonism I saw between people. It made me see we were totally off target."

Future plans for the organization include publishing a newsletter and hosting more public forums. The next two meetings, scheduled for Dec. 9 at Wyatt Park Baptist Church in St. Joseph, and Dec. 11 in the Kansas City area, will feature a discussion of the issue of inerrancy. The guest speaker at both meetings will be Ray Summers, retired head of the department of religion at Baylor University in Waco, Texas.

Witt said a future meeting, tentatively scheduled for next spring, will feature Georgia Baptist layman Norman Cavender.

Emphasizing the need for unity, Stratten said: "If the convention is to survive, we need to be more tolerant of everyone, whether they are fundamentalists or moderates. The work of the convention — primarily missions — is being hampered by the divisiveness."

Trennis Henderson writes for the Word and Way.

Overseas enrollment/rises 50 percent

Over the last three years, overseas seminary enrollment has increased more than 50 percent. Extension study, which increased almost 16 percent in 1985, has a three-year increase of approximately 40 percent. More than 18,000 students were enrolled in seminaries or Theological Education by Extension during 1985.

Thursday, January 15, 1987

BAPTIST RECORD PAGE 7

17,000 inmates are born again during "invasion of prisons"

DALLAS (BP) — Convicted killer Richard Andrade, who was executed in Huntsville, Texas, Dec. 18, became a Christian during the national Prison Invasion Dec. 5-7, prison chaplains reported.

Andrade was one of more than 17,000 inmates in 500 prisons in 46 states who became born-again Christians during the revival, said ex-inmate Paul Kramer of Dallas, national administrator for the event, the largest such effort in history.

A chaplain who was with Andrade when he died said the 25-year-old man admitted he had done wrong but said he had asked God for forgiveness and had accepted Christ as his Savior.

"Don't feel sorry for me. I'm going with God. I'm going to paradise," Andrade said.

The National Prison Invasion was held on the 45th anniversary of the Japanese invasion of Pearl Harbor, but instead of guns and hate, about 8,000 volunteer counselors went into the cells and the cellblocks armed with the Bible and Christian love, said Kramer.

Another ex-inmate, Paul Carlin of Crockett, Texas, director of Prisoner's Bible Institute, coordinated the revival efforts of 950 volunteers in 25 federal and state prisons across Texas. Carlin said the Texas volunteers, about 80 percent of them Southern Baptists, were overwhelmed by the response of so many inmates.

Prison ministry was one of Jesus' foremost commandments, said Carlin.

"When Jesus died on a cross, he died a convicted felon between convicted felons, and his last act was to save a convicted felon and take him to heaven."

First-time prison ministry volunteers said they could hardly wait to go back into the prisons again to share their faith.

Scott Moneyham, a student at Southwestern Seminary here, and one of 55 volunteers from First Baptist Church of Euless, was in Ellis I Unit near Huntsville, talking to a death row inmate about Christ when he noticed Andrade in the adjoining cell listening eagerly.

"Is there time for me?" the inmate asked, "I just have 14 days to live."

Moneyham assured him there was time, showed him in the Bible how to become a Christian, and the condemned man received Christ into his heart.

Carlos McLeod, one of 25 Texas Baptists who preached in the prison chapel services, said, "My weekend at

Eastham Prison gave me a fresh insight into the opportunities to change the face of our society from behind prison walls."

McLeod, director of the Texas Baptist Evangelism Division, said he was impressed with the giant step made earlier by Texas Baptist Men, the Texas Baptist State Missions Commission and Tryon Evergreen Baptist Association in building the hospitality house at Huntsville to minister to inmate's families.

"Now I am elated to see the response of the inmates to the gospel. The road of rehabilitation is open for the thousands who experienced new life in Jesus this weekend," McLeod said.

Jimmy Draper, pastor of First Church, Euless, and former president of the Southern Baptist Convention, said, "I really believe this is the answer."

"If we don't do something to change what happens to them (offenders)

when they get out, there's no hope," added Draper, who served as a counselor and preached during chapel services at Ellis I.

Inmates were not the only people affected. In Georgia, two guards and a prison nurse gave their lives to Jesus.

Among the prison ministry volunteers was a former Southern Baptist pastor from Gulfport, Miss., Rick Edwards, who was released from federal prison last April after serving more than two years on conspiracy charges.

"There is no real rehabilitation except through Jesus Christ," said Edwards. "The only hope for inmates is lay people like this reaching in from the outside to set the captives free. I know from experience that men who are incarcerated can find freedom through repentance of sin and coming to know Jesus Christ as reality in their lives."

Orville Scott writes for Texas Baptists.

Mississippi Baptist activities

- Jan. 18 Sanctity of Human Life Sunday (CAC Emphasis)
- Jan. 22 Church Business Administrators Conference; Woodland Hills BC, Jackson; 9 a.m.-3 p.m. (CAPM)
- Jan. 23-24 ASSIST Faculty/Outreach Bible Study-Faculty Clinic; Colonial Hgts. BC, Jackson; 5:45 p.m., 23rd-12:45 p.m., 24th (SS)
- Jan. 23-24 Young Ministers' Wives Retreat; Camp Garaywa; 5:30 p.m., 23rd-1:30 p.m., 24th (WMU)

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U.S. giving to charity may experience decline

By David Wilkinson

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — American generosity, measured in terms of charitable giving, has increased steadily during the last five years. But as a new year approaches, signs indicate the upward trend may be stalling.

One major channel of charitable giving — hunger relief for the world's starving — already is facing the painful dilemma of expanding needs and dwindling resources as Americans show a new reluctance to reach for their pocketbooks.

In 1985 Americans gave \$79.8 billion to charities, a 28 percent increase over the 1980 total of \$6.3 billion. Four out of every five of those charitable dollars came from individuals.

About \$38 billion — or 47 percent — of the 1985 total went to religious organizations. Other major recipients were education and health, \$11 billion each, and social services, \$9 billion.

While many charitable organizations worry about the future impact of tax reform on giving, hunger relief

organizations already are feeling the pinch.

Some examples:

— At the end of November, Southern Baptist contributions to overseas hunger relief ministries through the convention's Foreign Mission Board lagged 31 percent behind the 11-month total for 1985.

— UNICEF's emergency appeal for Africa last year raised \$102 million.

This year's appeal has raised only \$13 million.

— Africa income for Lutheran World Relief has dropped 25 percent since last year.

— Save the Children has received only \$368,000 for Africa this year, compared to \$6.7 million in 1985.

— World Vision has cut its African relief budget from \$42.7 million in fiscal year 1986 to \$17.2 million. World Vision's donor base went from 892,000 in 1984 to 1.2 million in 1985 and then fell to 878,000 this year.

Despite stepped-up international aid, the United Nations estimates 17

million Africans are still dependent on food aid.

Robert Parham, director of hunger concerns for the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission, said reasons for the sharp drop in hunger gifts are numerous: economic hardships in some areas of the United States, a decline in news media coverage of ongoing hunger needs and reports of the return of rain to parts of Africa which "have caused many people to assume mistakenly that Africa is now well down the road to recovery."

"Also," he said, "the quick-fix mentality of many Americans has led people to misunderstand the long-term nature of hunger relief and development work. Many people do not understand that reducing hunger in Africa and elsewhere around the world is going to take years of hard work."

David Wilkinson writes for the Christian Life Commission.

Joint Committee wants court to let churches decide workers

By Stan Hastey

WASHINGTON (BP) — Siding with the Mormon Church and the Reagan administration in a key church-state test, the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs has asked the Supreme Court to uphold a congressional exemption in the Civil Rights Act that allows churches to decide for themselves whom to employ in any position.

The high court agreed last November to review a U.S. district court decision that sided with seven employees of Mormon Church-owned businesses fired after they failed to meet requirements that would have qualified them for the privileged church status of "temple recommends." The term refers to a relationship within the Mormon Church that qualifies members to participate in

secret rites conducted only in Mormon temples.

The lower court decision held unconstitutional a provision of the Civil Rights Act of 1972 exempting churches from a ban on religious discrimination in employment.

Under the original 1964 law, religious employers could restrict employment to "individuals of a particular religion to perform work connected with . . . (their) religious activities." But in 1972, when it rewrote and extended the law, Congress deleted the single word "religious" from the exemption in an effort to prevent governmental entanglement with churches in deciding which of their activities were "religious."

In a brief filed Jan. 5, the Baptist Joint Committee urged the Supreme

Court to side with Congress and reject the district court's finding. James M. Dunn, executive director of the Baptist public affairs agency, said the case "offers an excellent illustration of the inextricable relationship of church-state separation and the free exercise of religion."

The Justice Department joined the Mormon Church last fall in asking the high court to review the lower decision.

In his brief, Thomas wrote that the history surrounding the 1972 amendment "clearly demonstrates that a legitimate secular purpose existed for its adoption," namely, "to avoid governmental interference and entanglement with religion." He added whereas the original Civil Rights Act "had put the government in the untenable position of examining and evaluating the beliefs and practices of religious organizations for the purpose of determining which of their activities were 'religious,' the 1972 amendment amounted to an admission of error."

objectors.

Noting the fired Mormon workers' successful district court challenge to the 1972 amendment was based on the claim that none of them performed "religious" duties for the church, Thomas pointed to Baptist doctrine that everything a church does is related to Christ's great commission to make disciples and help them grow in the faith. "Any attempt by the state to force Baptist agencies to hire non-Christians or even non-Baptists diminishes our corporate witness and hampers this evangelistic task," he said.

Stan Hastey writes for the Baptist Joint Committee.

McCartney goes to RTVC as chief operating officer

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP) — Richard T. McCartney, editor of the Oklahoma Baptist Messenger since 1979, has been named executive vice-president and chief operating officer of the Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission and the ACTS network, effective Jan. 15.

McCartney will be responsible for the daily operation of the RTVC, replacing Luke Williams, who retired. McCartney also will assume the added responsibilities of being chief operating officer, which have been carried out on an interim basis by Jim Edwards, senior vice president for financial services.

The RTVC and ACTS network have been working to stabilize the financial

situation after heavy expenses and debt were required to launch the network.

After 12 years in radio and television announcing, news, sales and management, McCartney became director of public relations for Oklahoma Baptists in 1958. In 1962 he assumed a similar position for Texas Baptists. From 1968-76 McCartney was president of Arthur Davenport Associates, a public relations firm in Oklahoma City, before forming his own public relations consulting firm, McCartney and Associates.

In 1977 he returned to the Texas convention as public relations director before being elected Messenger editor in December 1979.

Devotional

By William F. Maxwell

Your life makes an impression

My favorite Christmas movie is, "It's a Wonderful Life," starring Jimmy Stewart. The movie is the life story of a man who grows up in a small town with exotic dreams of travel and adventure. He starts out to fulfill these dreams several times, but some crisis always prevents those dreams from becoming reality. The death of his father causes him to assume the responsibility for the family's building and loan business.

In this business the young man, played by Stewart, is constantly at cross purposes with the town's wealthiest and meanest citizen, Old Man Potter. Potter seeks to gain his wealth through the misfortunes of others and by greed and deception. Stewart, on the other hand, seeks to help those around him. He forgives late debt payments, takes a personal interest in people's lives, and seeks to make his community a better place to live.

The climax of the story comes when money belonging to the Building and Loan is lost just as the bank examiner comes to review the books. Stewart, faced with criminal charges and public disgrace, seeks to end his life by jumping in the freezing river on Christmas Eve. Before he can carry out his suicide a loveable angel jumps in and Stewart characteristically seeks to save the angel's life first. Unconvinced that the one he saves is an angel, Stewart relates his discouragement and states, "I wish I had never been born. Everyone would be better off." With a rush of wind the angel takes Stewart back to the town, or to the town the way it would have been if Stewart had never been born. The town is one of corruption and vice and has even been named Pottersville. His wife is an old spinster, his brother whose life he saved as a young boy is dead, and his friends do not know him.

In the end Stewart sees that his life was worth living and that he had made a positive influence on the lives of other people. He asks the angel to let him live again and he rushes back to his family. The people he had helped along the way come to his rescue and raise the missing money.

The reality of this story is that no matter what we do we have an effect on the lives of other people. We can influence them positively or negatively. We influence the people with whom we go to school, the people with whom we work, the people with whom we play, and even the people with whom we worship. The way we act, talk, and share with those people has a great influence on their lives.

As Christians, our lives are examples. Colossians 3:12-17 gives us great instruction on how we should pattern our lives to make the most positive influence. Verse 15 says, "And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body." Our lifestyles should be filled with compassion, holiness, meekness, patience, and forbearance.

We will never have the opportunity to see what kind of place this world would have been if we had never been born. Yet, we can see what kind world this will be because we were born and we can see our influence in the lives of other people. Our influence should be one which reflects the love of Christ "and whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him." (Colossians 3:17). How will your life influence someone today?

William Maxwell is business office supervisor, MBCB.

Earl Clark will lead MasterLife Workshop

A MasterLife/MasterBuilder Workshop to be held at First Church, Grenada, Feb. 9-13, will be co-led by

Earl Clark, minister of Education at First Church, Mendenhall, and by Mike Madewell of Byrdstown, Tenn. Both are experienced MasterLife Workshop leaders.

The MasterBuilder section of the workshop will be led by Larry Goff, pastor of Enon Church in Jasper Association and Jimmy Hopper of Arkansas. A prerequisite for registering for a MasterBuilder Workshop is to have participated in a MasterLife Workshop or MasterLife group.

A registration fee of \$82.50 is required for the MasterLife section of the workshop. This covers all leadership materials. A registrant's spouse may attend for a \$10 reduction. The registration fee for the MasterBuilder Workshop is \$50. This will be refunded if two or more persons from the same church are registered in the

MasterLife Workshop scheduled parallel to the MasterBuilder Workshop.

Registration forms are available from the Church Training Department, P. O. Box 530, Jackson, MS. 39205.

MasterLife discipleship training is a sequential, developmental group-discipling process that enables one to make Christ master and to master the Christian life through practicing the basic disciplines. These are abiding in Christ, living in the Word, praying in faith, living in fellowship with believers, witnessing to the world, and ministering through Christ's power under the direction of mature, practicing disciplers. Workshop graduates are eligible to purchase materials and lead a group in their church or association.

Leo V. Barker, pastor of First Church of Baldwin, comments regarding a MasterLife Workshop: "It offers two vitally important advantages, information and skills regarding a most effective discipleship process; and the weeklong activities also offer the effects of a spiritual retreat."

Nell Middleton, a member of First Church, Winona, is available for revivals and church concerts. She will sing at the Mississippi Evangelism Conference in February. Middleton may be contacted at P. O. Box 182, Winona, MS 38967 or phone

Middleton 283-1116.

Jeannette Murphey of the Education and Psychology Department at Clarke College presented a paper in November at the 15th annual meeting of the Mid-South Educational Research Association (MSERA) in Memphis. Her paper was entitled **The Relationship Between Five Measures of Reading Comprehension Used in Determining Eligibility for Specific Learning Disabilities.**

Farley Earnest, minister of music at First Church, Brandon, will be honored on Jan. 18, his 10th anniversary there.

Special recognition of Earnest and his family will begin at the 7 p.m. worship service and will conclude with a reception.

Earnest is a native of Greenville and a graduate of the University of Mississippi and Southwestern Seminary.

He is married to the former Billie Esco and they have two children, Kevin, 15, and Suzanne, 11.

Earnest, a member of the Mississippi Singing Churchmen, is director of handbells for the group.



Pictured are members of Baptist Young Women's Organization at Clarke College. BYW is an auxiliary of Women's Missionary Union of the Baptist Church, and receives financial support from WMU. Members are Suzie Barnes, Harperville; Sheila Ethridge, Collinsville; Karen Howard, Louisville; Bonnie Johnson, Taylorsville; Carla McNally, Philadelphia; Amanda Hall, Foxworth, and Susan Williams, Waynesboro. Mary Jane Myers is BYW sponsor.



Five students from Clarke College have been selected as national outstanding campus leaders, and will be included in the 1987 edition of Who's Who Among Students in American Junior Colleges.

Students (pictured) named from Clarke College, left to right, are Patricia Gail Adcock, Raleigh; Sandra DeNeal Summers, Agricola; Mrs. Connie Parnell, Chatham, Ala.; Donna Kay Gomillion, Union; and Charles William Dugan II, Walnut Grove.

Missionary News

Herman Bryles, father of Mrs. Hugh Provost, Baptist representative to Yemen, died Nov. 24 in Pine Bluff, Ark. She is the former Brenda Bryles of Pine Bluff. Her husband was born in Jonesboro, Ark., and grew up in Mississippi and Arkansas. Appointed by the Foreign Mission Board in 1981, they may be addressed at Box 8080, Ibb, Yemen.

Mike and Annette Racey, missionaries to Chile, report a change of address (Casilla 373, Chillan, Chile). They consider Biloxi, Miss., their hometown. The former Annette Evans, she was born in Mobile, Ala. They were appointed by the Foreign Mission Board in 1984.

Diane (D. P.) Smith, missionary to the Ivory Coast, has completed language study in France and arrived on her field of service (address: Mission Baptiste, 01 BP 3722, Abidjan 01, Cote D'Ivoire, Ivory Coast). A native of Mississippi, she was born in Collins and considers Jackson her hometown. She was appointed by the Foreign Mission Board in 1985.

Dale and Gail Tucker, missionaries to Argentina, have completed language study in Costa Rica and arrived on their field of service (address: Bolanos 141, 1407 Buenos Aires, Argentina). He was born in Jackson, Miss., and she, the former Gail Atchison, in Paris, Tenn. Both consider Louisville, Ky., their hometown. They were appointed by the Foreign Mission Board in 1985.

Donnie and Dimple Bond, missionary associates to the Leeward Islands since 1982, completed their term of service Dec. 6. He served as a general evangelist, and she was a church and home worker. They are natives of Osyka, Miss.; she is the former Dimple Conerly. They may be addressed at 24 Kiowa, Shawnee, Okla. 74801.

Allen Puckett Jr., father of Susan Puckett, missionary to Taiwan, died Dec. 6 in Columbus, Miss. A native of Columbus, she was appointed by the Foreign Mission Board in 1986. She may be addressed at P. O. Box 427, Taipei 10099, Taiwan, ROC.

Talitha Edwards, journeyman to Korea, has completed her two-year term of service as a pharmacist at the Baptist Hospital in Pusan and returned to the States (address: 321 Powell, Grenada, Miss. 38901), her hometown. Before she was employed by the Foreign Mission Board in 1985, she was a relief pharmacist at local drug stores in Grenada.

Beth Watkins, journeyman to Japan, has completed her two-year term of service as a secondary elementary teacher in Kitakyushu and returned to the States (address: Rt. 1, Box 537, Moselle, Miss. 39459). A native of Mississippi, she was born in Hattiesburg and grew up in Moselle. Before she was employed by the Foreign Mission Board in 1985, she was an English and chorus teacher in Bay St. Louis, Miss.

Tony and Karen Gray, missionaries to Brazil, are the parents of Katie Rene, born Dec. 4. They may be addressed at R. Ruy Pinto Bandeira 1112, 29090 Vitoria, ES Brazil. He was born in Mobile, and considers Moss Point, Miss., his hometown. The former Karen Burns, she was born in Waynesboro, Miss.

Ralph and Gena Calcote, missionaries to Japan since 1951, retired from active missionary service Dec. 1. He served as a general evangelist, and she was a church and home worker. A native of Mississippi, he was born in Lincoln County and grew up in Brookhaven. The former Gena Wall of Louisiana, she was born in Natalbany and considers Kentwood her hometown. They may be addressed at 1907 Barnwell Lane, Yazoo City, Miss. 39194.

Donnell and Jane Courtney, missionaries to Guatemala, have arrived in the States (address: 419 Gardenia Lake, Jackson, Miss. 77566). He is a native of Jasper, Texas, and she is the former Jane Holtz of Pueblo, Colo. They were appointed by the Foreign Mission Board in 1970.

John and Jerry Hilbun, missionary associates to the Windward Islands, have arrived in the States (address: 919 Reaves St., Jackson, Miss. 39204). They consider Laurel, Miss., their hometown. She is the former Jerry Warren. They were appointed by the Foreign Mission Board in 1983.

Faces And Places

by anne washburn mcwilliams

Loving faces, helping hands are needed year 'round

Santa Claus and a score of his doubles delivered presents on December 23 to the approximately 1400 patients in Mississippi State Hospital at Whitfield. Items, donated by churches and others, had been wrapped by Volunteer Service Department staff and helpers and were matched to the needs or desires of each individual patient. This Christmas time attention was good, but the patients also need loving faces and helping hands year round.

"There are great mission opportunities right here within a short driving distance of many Mississippi Baptists," said W. Mark Moore, administrator of the Clinical Support Services at the hospital. "Many of our patients are Christians and have a strong church-related background," he added. "Yet there are numerous ways in which volunteers may minister to them."

For instance, there is the Patient Education Program in which more than 75 patients have been involved in recent months in adult literacy classes, G.E.D. classes, post-high school classes, and two in college work. Classes, taught by various staff and others, are provided throughout the hospital in social-living skills, problem-solving, job training, and in special interests such as music, typing, and crafts.

"Many of our patients have good cultural, educational, and professional backgrounds," Mark pointed out. "Yet some have had little opportunity to develop worthwhile skills. We usually can help the men and women who are discharged or relocated in personal care homes (such as THE LEARNING CENTER, 1200 West Capitol, across from Calvary Baptist Church) or others across the state. Likewise, we are able to provide educational and skill-living experiences for those who need to remain in a hospital setting."

For these classes and other training efforts, volunteers are needed. "We would like to have church groups, retirees, and others who have skills to share, to help with classes, tutor individuals, or aid in other projects," he said. Anyone 16 or older may volunteer. A minimum of two hours monthly is suggested; but even daily opportunities of services are available and needed.

Classes are held Monday-Friday mornings, but could be offered in afternoons, evenings, and on weekends, depending on volunteers available. Volunteers do not have to be professional teachers, but many have love, warmth, patience, and willingness to share in helpful teaching and other learning experiences. It is important that they make a definite commitment to be present for each class agreed upon, so as not to disappoint the students. (Teaching plans and other special helps are available.)

Mark said he also envisions various

college students coming to help teach these classes. Math, English, music majors or others could teach their subjects for a certain length of time.

Several weeks ago, I visited the Mississippi State Hospital. Mark and I stopped by the building where the educational classes were in progress. I met Ann Hinson, an instructor of the Rankin County School System, who teaches G.E.D. courses Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Some patients tutor other patients. I met a woman, a former teacher, who was using the Laubach method to help other patients learn to read.

Not only is the Clarion Ledger provided daily to help the students keep up with current events; but patients also assist in publishing their own newspaper, The Grapevine, twice each month.

In the Patient Education Program, there's another need beyond the volunteers. It's a need for multiple amounts of materials and equipment: paper, pencils, books, dictionaries, projectors, video and audio cassette items, learning games, refreshment items, and funds for on-going needs. (The hospital's budget does not always provide funds for such materials.) At least one church, Andrews Chapel, Brandon, provides \$100 a month toward this need for supplies.

Mark, as co-ordinator of the education program, collects the supplies and would be the one to ask about what the needs are. Salesmen for book companies have given limited amounts of their sample textbooks. Mark has found some items (game boards, large teaching pictures, and other items suitable for such uses with adults) from Children's Department resource kits (from Sunday School, Church Training, Vacation Bible School, and Church Music) to be helpful. Resource materials, showing situations where adults are involved, (rather than children) are needed.

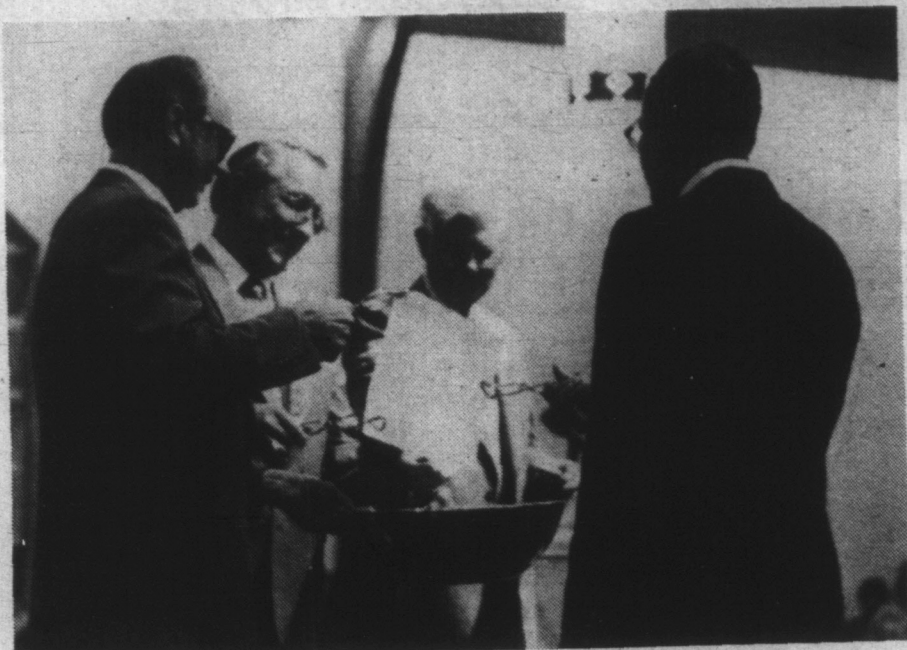
For more information on how you can help with this education program or other special ministry projects, call Mark, 1-939-1221, Extension 186; or call Jerald Ball, Volunteer Services Co-ordinator, Extension 205. Or, write either at Mississippi State Hospital, Whitfield, Mississippi 39193.

Next week, I'll talk about a lot of other ways that missions and ministries can be provided by volunteers who participate on campus at Mississippi State Hospital or by others who share resources, prayers, and interests.

Gorbachov calls for struggle with religion

TASHKENT, U.S.S.R. (EP) — Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachov called for a "decisive and uncompromising struggle" with religion and an improvement of atheist work in a speech made Nov. 24 during a stopover in Tashkent on his way to India, according to Open Doors New Service.

Just for the Record



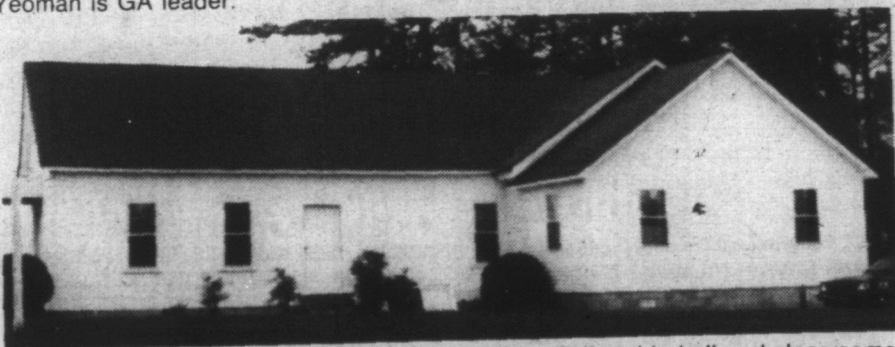
On Dec. 10 the congregation of Easthaven Church, Brookhaven, held a note burning. Guest speaker was former pastor, Robert Wall of Clinton. The pastor is Bendon Ginn Photo (l to r) Hollis Burt, Joe Speights, Robert Wall, Clayton Rayborn.



Liberty Church, Liberty, began the week of prayer and the Lottie Moon Mission Offering season with the older Girls in Action presenting flags of foreign countries, where Southern Baptists have missionaries. The church goal was \$5,000, and the flags are being used to portray the amount of money given to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering.

Left to right are Nicole Pelengaris, Kimberly Havard, Brandi L. Walsh, Shelley Tynes, Melissa Mabry, Brandi J. Walsh, Michele Pettey, Holly Alford, and Barbara Higgins.

Steven R. Pettey is pastor; Mrs. Hettie Lynn Tynes is GA director; and Mrs. Vickie Yeoman is GA leader.



Bethany Church, Potts Camp, dedicates a new fellowship hall and classrooms, on Dedication Day, Dec. 7.

Among those attending (pictured below) are Don Stanfill, director of missions; Randy Smith, Dennis Clayton, and Dennis Renick.



Dino Kartsonakis, five-time winner of the Gospel Music Association's Dove Award, will appear in concert at First Church, Grenada, at 7:00 p.m. on January 17.

Oakdale Church, 1462 Hwy. 471, Brandon will host the Bibletones Quartet of Gulfport in concert, Jan. 18, from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Alan Kilgore is pastor. Miss Susan M. Clark is minister of music and youth.



Southern Heights Church, Tupelo, held note burning, Dec. 21.

The church is less than 20 years old, valued at over \$300,000, and debt free.

Pictured, standing, left to right, are Fred Edwards, trustee; Murry Phillips, trustee; Jim Rutledge, pastor; and Steve Davis, minister of music, sitting.



Combined pre-school and children choirs of Pineview Church, Hattiesburg held their annual Christmas presentation on Sunday evening, Dec. 21.

Pineview Church has started its new children's church ministry. This is a worship service on a child's level for ages 4 - grade 2. Pictured are Larry Deemy, minister of youth, and Mrs. Susan Blanchard, children's church director. The pastor is Paul Blanchard.

The church has a tape ministry consisting of the pastor's messages.

Spring Hill Church (Copolah County) set a goal of \$800 for foreign missions, and \$1,050 was received.

Estus Mason is serving as interim pastor.

Easthaven Church, Brookhaven, recently held a lay renewal conference, Nov. 14-16. Results included 15 professions of faith.

According to Jim Whitehead, general chairman for lay renewal at the church, lay renewal "strongly emphasizes prayer, daily family worship, and daily individual quiet time or worship."



South Side Church, Meridian, observed the 40th anniversary of its church media library, Nov. 30.

Mrs. Eron Darsey was presented a plaque in recognition of her service as church media librarian since 1948. The plaque was presented in the morning worship service by Miss Janis Watson, chairman of the committee.

Pictured are Mrs. Darsey, Miss Watson, and Marcus Peagler, minister of music and education. Wayne E. Riley is pastor.



RA's of Tuscumbia Church, Booneville had a walk-a-thon to raise money for Lottie Moon Christmas Offering. Of those that participated a little over \$87.00 was raised which helped the church exceed its goal of \$250.00.

Pictured, left to right, are Billy Dowdy, pastor; Anthony Borden; Al Bowling; Jerry Ray Henderson; and Ricky Heavener, RA leader.

Staff Changes

Larry T. Springfield is the new pastor at Salem Church, Collins, Covington Association.

Ken Anderson has accepted the call to become associate pastor at Parkway Church, Jackson. He goes to Parkway Church from Black Jack Church, Yazoo Association, where he served as pastor for five years.

He is married to the former Candye Phillips and they are the parents of one daughter, Brecken.

Bill Causey is pastor.

Diamondhead Church, Gulf Coast Association, has called Robert T. Gilmore, II as minister of music and youth. His first service was Jan. 7.

Paul B. Oglesbee, Jr. is pastor.

Dana R. Denson of Jackson has recently become music director of McAdams Church, Attala County. Denson, who received a bachelor of music degree from Mississippi College in 1984, was formerly pianist at Emmanuel Church, Jackson. He is married to the former Edith Thompson of Pass Christian and they have one son, Richard, aged three and a half months.



More than football

(Continued from page 2)

were nine seconds left in the game. That was plenty of time for a Testaverde pass for a touchdown that would win the game.

Paterno said later, "I'm not the type of guy to pray for the good Lord to take care of a football game. I figure he has better things to do. But (on that fourth down) I was tempted."

Prayer or not, the pass was intercepted, and Penn State won and became the national champions.

And very likely, Paterno is right. It's doubtful that the Lord has much reason to concern himself with the outcome of a football game.

There is every reason, however, to believe that concerted prayer is effective. We find such references in the scripture. We remember the one that says that the effectual, fervent prayer of a righteous man carries a great deal of weight. Also we remember that the Lord said that where two or three are gathered together in his name, he will be there.

There are many areas of need for concerted prayer in our day. As an example, John Smith, missionary to Indonesia was in our office last week. In conversation we referred to the great revival that occurred recently in that area. Smith said that the missionaries in Indonesia are joining in prayer now that those who were saved as a result of that revival will be channeled into effective work in the Lord's Kingdom. Surely we can join those missionaries in that prayer.

There are prayer needs all over the world. We would do well to make ourselves acquainted with them and join those in prayer who are trying to make a difference.

But back to Paterno. This is not in-

tended to be a testimonial to him. He can get along very well whether or not anybody reads this. I mentioned, however, my long-time admiration for him, even though my reasons were vague. Since the Fiesta Bowl game, however, there has been a great deal in print about Paterno. It seems he really deserves a great deal of admiration. He is more dedicated to education than to winning football games. He keeps on doing the latter with regularity, but he insists that his football players realize that they came to college to get an education. And he reinforces this with his influence and actions.

Temple Heights, Oxford, to celebrate 25th

Temple Heights Church, Oxford, will celebrate its 25th anniversary on Jan. 18.

Arthur Leslie will be the speaker. Leslie preached a revival at a new work mission in south Oxford in December of 1961. This new work was organized into Temple Heights Church on Jan. 14, 1962.

Jerry Dale Patterson is pastor.

Graded Choir Workers' Clinic to be held at Highland, Vicksburg

A Graded Choir Workers' Clinic will be held Jan. 30-31, at Highland Church, Vicksburg. Friday session will be from 7:30-9 p.m. and Saturday session will be from 9-11 a.m.

The guest leaders will be: Talmadge Butler, Older Children (Grades 4-6); Elise Dumsen, Younger Children (Grades 1-3); Don Odom, Preschoolers (Ages 3-5).

The conference is being sponsored by Warren County Association and is open to anyone who works with children's choirs. There will not be a conference fee.

Highland Church is located at 3518 Halls Ferry Road, just south of I-20. Call 636-2493 for other information.

Roy L. Honeycutt Sr. dies in Grenada

Roy L. Honeycutt, Sr., 83, died Jan. 5 in Grenada, following an illness of several months. Funeral services were held, Jan. 7 in Grenada.

A retired farmer and businessman, Honeycutt was a member of First Church, Grenada.

He is survived by his wife, the former Gladys Carpenter, and two sons, Roy L. Honeycutt, Jr., president of Southern Seminary, Louisville, Ky. and John Honeycutt of Huntsville, Ala.

Church constituted, Sheridan, Wyoming

The North Sheridan Southern Baptist Mission was constituted into the Sheridan Southern Baptist Church on Sunday, Jan. 4, at 3 p.m.

Jimmie T. Smith is the pastor. A Lincoln County native, he was former pastor of Gum Grove Church, Lincoln County, Mississippi.

Smith and his wife, Mary, have been on the home mission field in Wyoming for two years.



New Orleans Seminary conferred doctoral degrees on four students from Mississippi during December commencement exercises. Pictured, left to right, are: Bennie R. Crockett Jr., Th.D., of Hattiesburg; Gerald Keith Gordon, D.Min., of Columbia; Landrum P. Leavell II, seminary president; Harry "Nick" Spring, Ed.D., of Gautier; and Donald John Wilton, Th.D., of Columbia.

New Orleans Seminary presents degrees to Mississippians

Fifteen Mississippians received degrees in December graduation from New Orleans Seminary. Commencement service were held Dec. 20. Four Mississippians got doctoral degrees.

These 15 included Donald John Wilton, from Columbia, doctor of theology (he is an evangelist with the Leonard Sanderson Evangelistic Association, Pineville, La.); LaRue Stephens, from Silver Creek, pastor of Cedar Grove Church, Columbia, master of divinity; James Keith Smith, from Jackson, master of divinity; Lois Adkins Smith, from Union, master of religious education; John Clifton Purvis, from Polkville, pastor of Goodwater Church, Enterprise, master of religious education; Charles Kenneth Nick, from Memphis (married to Gwyn Wise of Ackerman), associate of divinity in pastoral ministries; Ronald Truitt Meeks, from Corinth, interim pastor of Highland Chapel, Pass Christian, master of divinity;

Edwin Barry Wilkinson, from Baker, La., pastor of Springfield Church, Natchez, master of divinity; Joe Render Lovelady Jr., from New Orleans (married to Katharine Carlock of Clinton, Miss.), master of religious education; Gerald Keith Gordon, from Laurel, pastor of East Columbia Church, Columbia, doctor of ministry; Bennie R. Crockett Jr. from Jackson, assistant professor of religion, William Carey College, doctor of theology;

Donald B. Bryant from Gulfport, master of divinity; Roger Wayne Alewine Sr., from Lexington, S.C., minister to senior adults and outreach, First Church, Gulfport, master of religious education; Bill Ashford, from Jackson, pastor of Anding Church, Benton, master of religious education; and Harry "Nick" Spring, from Gautier, Ed.D.

Thursday, January 15, 1987

Sara Crawford honored by MBF

Trustees of the Mississippi Baptist Foundation recently honored their bookkeeper with a resolution of appreciation.

Mrs. Sara Crawford, who retires Mar. 31, began in 1967 as a part time office secretary. She became a full time secretary the next year and was promoted to bookkeeper at the end of 1978.

Foundation executive secretary Harold Kitchings expressed his appreciation for her 20 years of "faithful, loyal, dedicated, and efficient service."

Grassroots Baptists

(Continued from page 2)

director of missions. We salute these men who often serve in difficult places with little recognition and often small compensation. They are the true connoisseurs of what is "grassrootism." When the director of missions says this is what Baptists are and this is what Baptists want, he may know more than any of the rest of us.

Perhaps it is time we listened to these servants of God for they may have some answers we have been seeking for a long time.

It is manlike to punish but godlike to forgive. — Peter von Winter

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Guy Rutland dies in Georgia

ATLANTA (BP) — Guy W. Rutland Jr., leader of one of the most active Southern Baptist families in Georgia, died here in mid-December at age 73.

Rutland died of congestive heart failure. He had been in poor health since suffering a stroke in 1964.

Rutland, an Atlanta businessman, was chairman of board of First Baptist Decatur Foundation which financed church and mission projects around the world. He was chairman of trustees at Golden Gate Seminary in Mill Valley, Calif., for several years. He served on the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, was chairman of trustees at Tift (Baptist) College in Forsyth, Ga., and was treasurer of the Haggai Institute of Atlanta.

His father before him, Rutland himself and their children have given millions of dollars to Baptist causes. Buildings are named for them at Tift College, Golden Gate Seminary and Georgia Baptist Medical Center in Atlanta.

His widow, Marie Simpson Rutland of Decatur, has chaired committees for the Home Mission Board. He spent 11 years as a member of the Georgia General Assembly and was speaker of the Georgia House of Representatives in 1963-64.

His son, Guy Rutland III, has been on the Southern Baptist Executive Committee.

Camp Garaywa now accepting applications

Applications are now being accepted from young women for summer employment at Camp Garaywa.

Each summer Woman's Missionary Union employs college and seminary students and school teachers to serve as counselors and leaders for the state's 2,000 plus GA and Acteens campers.

The qualifications of a Camp Garaywa staffer include: a committed Christian and an active member of a Southern Baptist Church; at least one year of college; an understanding of the purpose of the GA and Acteens organizations; a desire to learn and teach missions; willing to put others before self; patience and love for children and youths.

Completed application forms should be mailed to the WMU Office, Box 530, Jackson, Miss. 39205. Forms can be secured from the WMU office and BSU directors.

PRO LIFE RALLY

Thursday, January 22, 1987 - 12:00 noon

South Side State Capitol

N. West St. and Mississippi St.

14th Anniversary of Roe vs Wade

"If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land."

II Chronicles 7:14 (NIV)

Come Pray With Us! Participants should meet Thursday, January 22, 1987 at 11:15 am at the Mississippi State Fairgrounds. We will proceed to the Capitol on foot for the noon rally. Lt. Governor Brad Dye will address a welcome and area pastors will lead us in prayer. See you there!



Teens for Life Candlelight Vigil

7:00 p.m. - State Capitol

"Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and praise your Father in heaven."

Matthew 5:16 (NIV)

Everyone is welcome to attend a special memorial service in honor of the 19 million babies who have lost their lives since the infamous Roe vs Wade decision in 1973. The service will be held Thursday, January 22, 1987 at 7:00 pm on the south steps of the State Capitol Building. Candles will be provided.

BE THERE!!!

Don't forget — Sanctity of Human Life — Sunday, January 18, 1987.

If you need more information concerning the rally or vigil, please contact our office at (601) 981-8181.

PRAY TO END ABORTION IN 1987

Mission Gifts Of Mississippi Baptist Churches Thru Convention Board

Jan. 1, 1986-Dec. 31, 1986

Assn. Miss. Designated, WMU & All				Assn. Miss. Designated, WMU & All				Assn. Miss. Designated, WMU & All				Assn. Miss. Designated, WMU & All			
Co-op	Other	Total		Co-op	Other	Total		Co-op	Other	Total		Co-op	Other	Total	
ADAMS ASSN	1,331.47	1,811.00	2,352.47	HARMONY	4,143.55	90.00	4,233.55	RAMAH	2,159.34	328.03	2,487.37	SALEN	4,032.63	4,102.96	8,135.59
BETHLEHEM	1,090.91	753.38	1,844.29	LIBERTY	2,882.45	6,408.00	9,290.45	ROXIE	14,763.94	10,908.04	25,671.98	SHIMONS MEMORIAL	2,601.15	1,131.14	3,732.29
BRIER AVE	1,327.26	720.00	2,047.26	MCALPIN	1,668.00	889.00	2,557.00	SALMATA	4,421.27	3,562.69	7,983.96	SOUTHERN HILLS	12,072.37	7,439.99	19,512.36
CALVARY	1,724.76	5,529.76	7,254.52	MT OLIVE	3,054.01	1,986.11	5,040.12	SILOAM	4,421.27	3,562.69	7,983.96	SOUTHSIDE	2,099.47	3,948.58	6,048.05
CLIFF TEMPLE	1,149.75	1,701.95	2,851.70	NT OLIVE	3,054.01	1,986.11	5,040.12	SPRING HILL	1,013.91	391.00	1,404.91	TEMPLE	5,995.65	2,648.13	8,643.78
CRAWFORD	3,377.38	1,954.05	5,331.43	N CARROLLTON	9,201.37	12,350.22	21,551.59	UNION	92,300.02	56,984.01	149,284.03	TRACE ROAD	10,179.68	10,179.68	20,359.36
FBC MATCHEZ	41,147.34	30,210.15	71,357.49	NEW BETHEL	31.02	228.00	259.02	GEORGE	8,265.09	7,024.87	15,289.96	TWIN LAKES	6,119.90	2,625.25	8,745.15
IMMANUEL	23,309.88	6,331.36	29,641.24	NEW SALT	154.05	154.05	308.10	AGRICOLA	10,337.56	12,961.41	23,298.97	UTICA	8,527.72	6,203.46	14,731.18
MONTEVIDEO	38,328.87	13,752.91	52,081.78	POPLAR SPRINGS	1,845.31	1,467.80	3,313.11	BARTON	10,337.56	12,961.41	23,298.97	VAN TINKLE	10,723.00	28,117.32	38,840.32
NEW HOPE	888.30	420.27	1,308.57	PROVIDENCE	448.00	318.00	766.00	BENLEY	1,015.99	811.92	1,827.91	WACKAMUS CREEK	1,674.82	1,002.00	2,676.82
PARKWAY	55,155.84	16,600.71	71,756.55	SHILOH	8,163.43	2,217.73	10,381.16	BENJAMIN	25,653.57	25,653.57	51,307.14	WILLOW HILLS	28,117.32	1,002.00	29,119.32
SOUTHERN HILLS	2,585.43	1,600.20	4,185.63	VALLEY HILL	55,869.25	98,642.21	154,511.46	GEORGE ASSN	250.00	250.00	500.00	WOODVILLE HTS	28,117.32	1,002.00	29,119.32
SPRINGFIELD	4,665.65	10,776.56	15,442.21	CHICKASAW	790.84	1,071.86	1,862.70	HILLCREST	888.58	1,350.39	2,238.97	WOODVILLE HTS	28,117.32	1,002.00	29,119.32
STANTON	29,640.10	10,776.56	40,416.66	AMITY	3,791.71	1,071.86	4,863.57	NORTHIDE	32,909.84	31,153.88	64,063.72	WYNDALE	6,382.24	5,088.46	11,470.70
WASHINGTON	215,513.74	98,642.21	314,155.95	ARBOR GROVE	4,137.70	1,071.86	5,209.56	ROCKY CREEK	9,164.86	3,057.11	12,221.97	2,399,525.901	373,038.073	772,563.973	
ALCORN	2,750.60	3,367.72	6,118.32	CARNATION	1,548.27	505.00	2,053.27	SHADY GROVE	9,164.86	3,057.11	12,221.97	HOLMES	595.35	458.38	1,053.73
ANTIOCH	2,101.10	1,529.04	3,630.14	CHICKASAW ASSN	119.00	119.00	238.00	BETHLEHEM	14,501.71	14,501.71	29,003.42	ANTIOCH	1,198.50	488.00	1,686.50
BETHLEHEM	50.00	50.00	100.00	FBC HOUKKA	11,839.30	5,204.98	17,044.28	CALVARY	2,101.10	1,529.04	3,630.14	BEAUMONT	2,393.67	944.75	3,338.42
BRUSH CREEK	7,515.08	6,693.32	14,208.40	FBC OKLAHOMA	34,622.39	8,633.75	43,256.14	CRUGER	1,393.74	428.30	1,822.04	EDENEZER	1,393.74	428.30	1,822.04
CALVARY	2,708.00	2,708.00	5,416.00	FELLOWSHIP	180.00	175.00	355.00	ENDRY	22,462.68	8,028.50	30,491.18	FBC DURANT	26,106.11	9,438.96	35,545.07
COUNTRY LINE	173.84	278.03	451.87												

Mission Gifts Of Mississippi Baptist Churches thru Conventions Board

Jan. 1, 1986-Dec. 31, 1986

Assn. Miss. Designated, WMU & All				Assn. Miss. Designated, WMU & All				Assn. Miss. Designated, WMU & All				Assn. Miss. Designated, WMU & All			
Co-op	Other	Total		Co-op	Other	Total		Co-op	Other	Total		Co-op	Other	Total	
LOWERY CREEK	3,357.19	1,234.35	4,591.54	MOUNT CARMEL	399.08	650.48	1,049.56	NEW SALEM	7,777.04	14,066.42	22,043.46	OLD CANAAN	0.00	0.00	0.00
MAGNOLIA	19,570.56	6,730.06	26,300.62	MOUNT ZION	2,075.00	925.00	2,999.00	NEW HILL	13,666.00	2,455.56	16,121.56	P RIV COMMUNITY	250.00	0.00	250.00
NOBLE MEN	7,300.07	1,077.19	8,377.26	NEW HOPE	668.00	1,028.42	1,696.42	PLYMOUTH	1,622.44	1,825.44	3,447.88	PIKE BLUFF	278.00	278.00	556.00
NYRICK	10,612.17	1,315.80	11,927.97	NEW PROSPECT	431.90	540.00	971.90	SOUTHSIDE	1,400.00	610.36	2,010.36	NEWTON	564.88	1,081.15	1,646.03
OKLAHOMA	9,163.20	3,914.34	13,077.54	NORTH PROVIDENCE	990.00	1,400.00	2,390.00	ST. LOUIS	1,400.00	0.00	1,400.00	BEAT LINE	501.20	1,047.49	1,548.69
OAKLAND GROVE	10,201.74	2,261.79	12,463.53	NEW ZION	2,502.00	1,497.56	4,000.00	ST. LOUIS	1,400.00	0.00	1,400.00	BETHEL	1,705.00	2,834.00	4,539.00
PARK HAVEN	1,443.24	1,802.08	3,245.32	PEARL HILL	1,226.89	1,730.58	2,957.47	ST. LOUIS	1,400.00	0.00	1,400.00	BETHEL	1,705.00	2,834.00	4,539.00
PEACOCK GROVE	9,373.89	2,000.00	11,373.89	PLEASANT HILL	1,546.87	1,730.58	3,277.45	ST. LOUIS	1,400.00	0.00	1,400.00	BETHEL	1,705.00	2,834.00	4,539.00
PINE GROVE	16,767.49	6,597.04	23,364.53	RENFROE	157.70	218.00	375.70	ST. LOUIS	1,400.00	0.00	1,400.00	BETHEL	1,705.00	2,834.00	4,539.00
PLAINWAY	2,609.56	2,844.54	5,454.10	RENFROE POINT	5,921.02	4,073.72	10,000.00	ST. LOUIS	1,400.00	0.00	1,400.00	BETHEL	1,705.00	2,834.00	4,539.00
PLEASANT HOME	2,053.26	2,473.24	4,526.50	SALEM	958.36	0.00	958.36	ST. LOUIS	1,400.00	0.00	1,400.00	BETHEL	1,705.00	2,834.00	4,539.00
SALEM HEIGHTS	4,228.05	2,204.64	6,432.69	SPRINGFIELD	250.70	112.50	363.20	ST. LOUIS	1,400.00	0.00	1,400.00	BETHEL	1,705.00	2,834.00	4,539.00
SANDERSVILLE	23,524.69	4,672.77	28,197.46	STANDING PINE	901.64	0.00	901.64	ST. LOUIS	1,400.00	0.00	1,400.00	BETHEL	1,705.00	2,834.00	4,539.00
SEC AVENUE	22,072.38	17,968.64	40,041.02	SUNRISE	1,512.00	5,106.00	6,618.00	ST. LOUIS	1,400.00	0.00	1,400.00	BETHEL	1,705.00	2,834.00	4,539.00
SHELTON	2,019.52	2,249.87	4,269.39	THOMAS TOWN	12,145.47	6,579.54	18,725.01	ST. LOUIS	1,400.00	0.00	1,400.00	BETHEL	1,705.00	2,834.00	4,539.00
SUMNERLAND	10,173.74	5,294.86	15,468.60	TRINITY	1,512.00	5,106.00	6,618.00	ST. LOUIS	1,400.00	0.00	1,400.00	BETHEL	1,705.00	2,834.00	4,539.00
TALLAHOMA	175.00	0.00	175.00	TUSCOLA	900.00	0.00	900.00	ST. LOUIS	1,400.00	0.00	1,400.00	BETHEL	1,705.00	2,834.00	4,539.00
TRINITY	20,180.51	9,116.72	29,297.23	WALNUT GROVE	4,290.83	9,404.02	13,694.85	ST. LOUIS	1,400.00	0.00	1,400.00	BETHEL	1,705.00	2,834.00	4,539.00
TUCKERS CROSSING	7,748.97	2,065.00	9,813.97	WIGGINS	739.54	1,219.40	1,958.94	ST. LOUIS	1,400.00	0.00	1,400.00	BETHEL	1,705.00	2,834.00	4,539.00
UNITY	2,000.00	0.00	2,000.00	LEBANON	1,100.00	1,588.00	2,688.00	ST. LOUIS	1,400.00	0.00	1,400.00	BETHEL	1,705.00	2,834.00	4,539.00
W ELLISVILLE	32,308.22	13,522.90	45,831.12	BOVIE STREET	0.00	0.00	0.00	ST. LOUIS	1,400.00	0.00	1,400.00	BETHEL	1,705.00	2,834.00	4,539.00
W LAUREL	30,372.14	17,583.85	47,956.99	CALVARY	6,224.91	3,312.32	9,537.23	ST. LOUIS	1,400.00	0.00	1,400.00	BETHEL	1,705.00	2,834.00	4,539.00
WILWOOD	19,522.88	4,486.47	24,009.35	CARTERVILLE	51,500.38	17,518.11	69,018.49	ST. LOUIS	1,400.00	0.00	1,400.00	BETHEL	1,705.00	2,834.00	4,539.00
	607,489.24	315,146.34	922,635.58	DIXIE	15,545.00	12,301.85	27,846.85	ST. LOUIS	1,400.00	0.00	1,400.00	BETHEL	1,705.00	2,834.00	4,539.00
KEMPER	2,255.58	946.63	3,202.21	EASTBACH	1,595.45	1,088.00	2,683.45	ST. LOUIS	1,400.00	0.00	1,400.00	BETHEL	1,705.00	2,834.00	4,539.00
BAY SPRINGS	1,250.00	1,862.00	3,112.00	FBC BROOKLYN	5,358.58	3,312.32	8,670.90	ST. LOUIS	1,400.00	0.00	1,400.00	BETHEL	1,705.00	2,834.00	4,539.00
BLACKWATER	1,318.31	468.00	1,786.31	FBC BROOKLYN	5,358.58	3,312.32	8,670.90	ST. LOUIS	1,400.00	0.00	1,400.00	BETHEL	1,705.00	2,834.00	4,539.00
BLUFF SPRINGS	1,318.31	468.00	1,786.31	FBC BROOKLYN	5,358.58	3,312.32	8,670.90	ST. LOUIS	1,400.00	0.00	1,400.00	BETHEL	1,705.00	2,834.00	4,539.00
CENTER RIDGE	1,072.71	0.00	1,072.71	FBC BROOKLYN	5,358.58	3,312.32	8,670.90	ST. LOUIS	1,400.00	0.00	1,400.00	BETHEL	1,705.00	2,834.00	4,539.00
CORINTH	6,414.39	8,343.56	14,757.95	FBC BROOKLYN	5,358.58	3,312.32	8,670.90	ST. LOUIS	1,400.00	0.00	1,400.00	BETHEL	1,705.00	2,834.00	4,539.00
DEKALB	89.00	0.00	89.00	FBC BROOKLYN	5,358.58	3,312.32	8,670.90	ST. LOUIS	1,400.00	0.00	1,400.00	BETHEL	1,705.00	2,834.00	4,539.00
KEMPER ASSN	1,000.00	2,032.02	3,032.02	FBC BROOKLYN	5,358.58	3,312.32	8,670.90	ST. LOUIS	1,400.00	0.00	1,400.00	BETHEL	1,705.00	2,834.00	4,539.00
LIBERTY	5,139.28	3,547.92	8,687.20	FBC BROOKLYN	5,358.58	3,312.32	8,670.90	ST. LOUIS	1,400.00	0.00	1,400.00	BETHEL	1,705.00	2,834.00	4,539.00
SCODBA	470.40	297.00	767.40	FBC BROOKLYN	5,358.58	3,312.32	8,670.90	ST. LOUIS	1,400.00	0.00	1,400.00	BETHEL	1,705.00	2,834.00	4,539.00
UNION HILL	78.69	2,000.00	2,078.69	FBC BROOKLYN	5,358.58	3,312.32	8,670.90	ST. LOUIS	1,400.00	0.00	1,400.00	BETHEL	1,705.00	2,834.00	4,539.00
VARDMAN	1,147.00	531.00	1,678.00	FBC BROOKLYN	5,358.58	3,312.32	8,670.90	ST. LOUIS	1,400.00	0.00	1,400.00	BETHEL	1,705.00	2,834.00	4,539.00
W KEMPER	30,958.38	28,083.73	59,042.11	FBC BROOKLYN	5,358.58	3,312.32	8,670.90	ST. LOUIS	1,400.00	0.00	1,400.00	BETHEL	1,705.00	2,834.00	4,539.00
WAHALAK	0.00	0.00	0.00	FBC BROOKLYN	5,358.58	3,312.32	8,670.90	ST. LOUIS	1,400.00	0.00	1,400.00	BETHEL	1,705.00	2,834.00	4,539.00
LAFAYETTE	8,492.98	4,228.46	12,721.44	FBC BROOKLYN	5,358.58	3,312.32	8,670.90	ST. LOUIS	1,400.00	0.00	1,400.00	BETHEL	1,705.00	2,834.00	4,539.00
ANCHORAGE	100.00	0.00	100.00	FBC BROOKLYN	5,358.58	3,312.32	8,670.90	ST. LOUIS	1,400.00	0.00	1,400.00	BETHEL	1,705.00	2,834.00	4,539.00
BAY SPRINGS	450.00	325.00	775.00	FBC BROOKLYN	5,358.58	3,312.32	8,670.90	ST. LOUIS	1,400.00	0.00	1,400.00	BETHEL	1,705.00	2,834.00	4,539.00
BETHEL	7,717.56	6,913.30	14,630.86	FBC BROOKLYN	5,358.58	3,312.32	8,670.90	ST. LOUIS	1,400.00	0.00	1,400.00	BETHEL	1,705.00	2,834.00	4,539.00
CLEAR CREEK	4,154.22	4,152.71	8,306.93	FBC BROOKLYN	5,358.58	3,312.32	8,670.90	ST. LOUIS	1,400.00	0.00	1,400.00	BETHEL	1,705.00	2,834.00	4,539.00
COLLEGE HILL HGT	1,622.12	1,622.12	3,244.24	FBC BROOKLYN	5,358.58	3,312.32	8,670.90	ST. LOUIS	1,400.00	0.00	1,400.00	BETHEL	1,705.00	2,834.00	4,539.00
DELTA	374.42	160.45	534.87	FBC BROOKLYN	5,358.58	3,312.32	8,670.90	ST. LOUIS	1,400.00	0.00	1,400.00	BETHEL	1,705.00	2,834.00	4,539.00
DENMARK	4,235.19	3,245.59	7,480.78	FBC BROOKLYN	5,358.58	3,312.32	8,670.90	ST. LOUIS	1,400.00	0.00	1,400.00	BETHEL	1,705.00	2,834.00	4,539.00
FBC ABBEVILLE	70,054.86	100,078.72	170,133.58	FBC BROOKLYN	5,358.58	3,312.32	8,670.90	ST. LOUIS	1,400.00	0.00	1,400.00	BETHEL	1,705.00	2,834.00	4,539.00
FBC OXFORD	8,719.94	12,751.51	21,471.45	FBC BROOKLYN	5,358.58	3,312.32	8,670.90	ST. LOUIS	1,400.00	0.00	1,400.00	BETHEL	1,705.00	2,834.00	4,539.00
HARMON TOWN	0.00	0.00	0.00	FBC BROOKLYN	5,358.58	3,312.32	8,670.90	ST. LOUIS	1,400.00	0.00	1,400.00	BETHEL	1,705.00	2,834.00	4,539.00
LAFAYETTE ASSN	42,761.92	22,725.27	65,487.19	FBC BROOKLYN	5,358.58	3,312.32	8,670.90	ST. LOUIS	1,400.00	0.00	1,400.00	BETHEL	1,705.00	2,834.00	4,539.00
N OXFORD	2,086.25	541.25	2,627.50	FBC BROOKLYN	5,358.58	3,312.32	8,670.90	ST. LOUIS	1,400.00	0.00	1,400.00	BETHEL	1,705.00	2,834.00	4,539.00
NEW ELBERTH	491.25	541.25	1,032.50	FBC BROOKLYN	5,358.58	3,312.32	8,670.90	ST. LOUIS	1,400.00	0.00	1,400.00	BETHEL	1,705.00	2,834.00	4,539.00
NEW HOPE	7,415.15	3,299.25	10,714.40	FBC BROOKLYN	5,358.58	3,312.32	8,670.90	ST. LOUIS	1,400.00	0.00	1,400.00	BETHEL	1,705.00	2,834.00	4,539.00
NEW PROSPECT	140.00	193.00	333.00	FBC BROOKLYN	5,358.58	3,312.32	8,670.90	ST. LOUIS	1,400.00	0.00	1,400.00	BETHEL	1,705.00	2,834.00	4,539.00
OLD UNION	768.48	3,533.42	4,301.90	FBC BROOKLYN	5,358.58	3,312.32	8,670.90	ST. LOUIS	1,400.00	0.00	1,400.00	BETHEL	1,705.00	2,834.00	4,539.00
PARIS	5,775.86	4,000.00	9,775.86	FBC BROOKLYN	5,358.58	3,312.32	8,670.90	ST. LOUIS	1,400.00	0.00	1,400.00	BETHEL	1,705.00	2,834.00	4,539.00
PHILADELPHIA	2,884.30	1,139.29	4,023.59	FBC BROOKLYN	5,358.58	3,312.32	8,670.90	ST. LOUIS	1,400.00	0.00	1,400.00	BETHEL	1,705.00	2,834.00	4,539.00
SHILOH	6,554.44	1,502.44	8,056.88	FBC BROOKLYN	5,358.58	3,312.32	8,670.90	ST. LOUIS	1,400.00	0.00	1,400.00	BETHEL	1,705.00	2,834.00	4,539.00
TAYLOR	1,903.66	1,678.98	3,582.64	FBC BROOKLYN	5,358.58	3,312.32	8,670.90	ST. LOUIS	1,400.00	0.00	1,400.00	BETHEL	1,705.00	2,834.00	4,539.00
TECHNICAL HGT	588.00	1,837.00	2,425.00	FBC BROOKLYN	5,358.58	3,312.32	8,670.90	ST. LOUIS	1,400.00	0.00	1,400.00	BETHEL	1,705.00	2,834.00	4,539.00
TULA	4,346.46	7,051.74	11,398.20	FBC BROOKLYN	5,358.58	3,312.32	8,670.90	ST. LOUIS	1,400.00	0.00	1,400.00	BETHEL	1,705.00	2,834.00	4,539.00
UNION WEST	181,269.97	119,704.29	300,974.26	FBC BROOKLYN	5,358.58	3,312.32	8,670.90	ST. LOUIS	1,400.00	0.00	1,400.00	BETHEL	1,705.00	2,834.00	4,539.00
YELLOW LEAF	0.00	0.00	0.00	FBC BROOKLYN	5,358.58	3,312.32	8,670.90	ST. LOUIS	1,400.00	0.00	1,400.00	BETHEL	1,705.00	2,834.00</	

Mission Gifts Of Mississippi Baptist Churches Thru Convention Board

Jan. 1, 1986-Dec. 31, 1986

Assn. Miss. Designated, WMU & All				Assn. Miss. Designated, WMU & All				Assn. Miss. Designated, WMU & All				Assn. Miss. Designated, WMU & All			
Co-op	Other	Total		Co-op	Other	Total		Co-op	Other	Total		Co-op	Other	Total	
DERBY	2,252.30	1,412.00	3,664.30	GALLIE	575.13	223.50	798.63	RULEVILLE	16,644.25	5,895.25	22,539.50	CALVARY	20,898.78	9,650.39	30,549.17
EMMANUEL	180.79	503.32	684.11	GRANDVIEW	9,798.04	663.58	10,461.62	SEC INDIANOLA	1,273.78	2,884.95	4,158.73	CHINESE MSN	774.96	1,539.20	2,313.86
FAITH MEMORIAL	.00	.00	.00	HICKORY RIDGE	2,411.00	1,820.00	4,231.00	SEWELL	1,992.75	3,737.91	5,730.66	DARLOVE	1,548.88	756.00	2,304.88
FBC CARRIERS	4,009.07	3,730.00	7,739.07	LAKE HARBOR	2,016.41	2,844.21	4,860.62	SUNFLOWER ASSN	44.15	.00	44.15	EMMANUEL	17,874.35	13,489.81	31,364.16
FBC NICHOLSON	4,855.84	2,528.50	7,384.34	LEESBURG	5,565.79	2,309.65	7,875.44	W DREW	578.00	335.00	913.00	FBC GREENVILLE	100,049.98	81,769.12	181,819.10
FBC DIXON	3,061.00	1,604.00	4,665.00	LIBERTY	18,875.96	1,647.74	20,523.70	TALLAHATCHIE	103,194.15	65,472.14	168,666.29	FBC ELAND	32,733.84	28,562.00	61,301.74
FBC PICAYUNE	71,406.04	9,727.69	81,133.73	LOUISIANA MSN	1,440.36	778.00	2,218.36	BRAZIL	85.75	85.75	171.50	GLENDAL	2,705.05	2,440.16	5,145.21
FBC POPPLARVILLE	4,896.36	2,950.36	7,846.72	MACLAURIN HEIGHTS	50,724.16	15,568.36	66,292.52	CASSELLA	1,529.34	4,670.79	6,200.13	GREENFIELD	8,952.00	2,307.50	11,259.50
FLAT TOP UNITY	832.82	377.91	1,210.73	NEADON GROVE	15,000.00	6,219.87	21,219.87	CONART	1,220.71	2,107.02	3,327.73	HOLLAND	2,140.46	2,983.21	5,123.67
FORDS CREEK	3,001.14	7,765.25	10,766.39	MOUNTAIN CREEK	2,848.43	6,331.96	9,180.39	E FRIENDSHIP	1,329.00	1,988.00	3,317.00	LAKEVIEW	4,378.79	2,698.62	7,077.41
GOODYEAR	17,041.88	10,056.91	27,098.79	MOUNTAIN VIEW	6,331.96	9,180.39	15,512.35	FBC CHARLSTON	1,329.00	1,988.00	3,317.00	NORTHSHORE	1,270.52	1,787.52	3,058.04
GRAND MEMORIAL	3,001.14	7,765.25	10,766.39	NEADON GROVE	15,000.00	6,219.87	21,219.87	FBC CLAYTON	1,329.00	1,988.00	3,317.00	PARKVIEW GREENVI	29,386.75	12,171.65	41,558.40
GUM POND	3,597.72	2,937.17	6,534.89	NEADON GROVE	15,000.00	6,219.87	21,219.87	FBC CLAYTON	1,329.00	1,988.00	3,317.00	PARKVIEW LELAND	693.02	30.00	723.02
HARMONY	3,099.94	2,177.66	5,277.60	NEADON GROVE	15,000.00	6,219.87	21,219.87	FBC CLAYTON	1,329.00	1,988.00	3,317.00	RIVERPORT	525.00	1,080.00	1,605.00
JUNIPER GROVE	6,542.13	1,574.04	8,116.17	NEADON GROVE	15,000.00	6,219.87	21,219.87	FBC CLAYTON	1,329.00	1,988.00	3,317.00	SEC GREENVILLE	24,995.34	10,762.52	35,757.86
NEW LUTHERFIELD	1,574.04	1,574.04	3,148.08	NEADON GROVE	15,000.00	6,219.87	21,219.87	FBC CLAYTON	1,329.00	1,988.00	3,317.00	SWIFTWATER	3,663.01	3,248.63	6,911.64
NEW PALESTINE	27,864.00	10,397.28	38,261.28	NEADON GROVE	15,000.00	6,219.87	21,219.87	FBC CLAYTON	1,329.00	1,988.00	3,317.00	WASHINGTON ASSN	.00	.00	.00
OAK HILL	5,975.20	2,799.02	8,774.22	NEADON GROVE	15,000.00	6,219.87	21,219.87	FBC CLAYTON	1,329.00	1,988.00	3,317.00	WAYNE	295,928.34	207,724.04	503,652.38
OLIVE	7,988.00	1,221.00	9,209.00	NEADON GROVE	15,000.00	6,219.87	21,219.87	FBC CLAYTON	1,329.00	1,988.00	3,317.00	BIG CREEK	8,131.20	3,267.51	11,418.71
PARKVIEW	2,215.64	1,642.96	3,858.60	NEADON GROVE	15,000.00	6,219.87	21,219.87	FBC CLAYTON	1,329.00	1,988.00	3,317.00	CALVARY	15,600.26	1,595.41	17,195.67
PEARL RIVER ASSN															

SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON COMMENTARIES

Relating in positive love is a goal to strive for

By Nathan L. Barber
Luke 6:27-38

Hate your enemies. Do evil to those who hate you. Curse those who curse you. Tongue-lash those who mistreat you. These would be typical responses from a people,



Barber
Jewish man whose coat had been taken by force.

But, however typical these responses might be for people living in an occupied country, Jesus reminds his followers that they are a liberated people, regardless of their outward circumstances. Whatever others might have told you, Jesus said, I tell you "... love your

such as Israel, who lived under the control of a powerful invader. It was probably not rare to see a Roman soldier strike one of the subjugated people for any number of mischievous reasons. Perhaps a blow was struck in response to objections raised by a young,

LIFE AND WORK

enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you ... love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you." He indicates that the whole matter of relationships boils down to love. Jesus calls his disciples to the excellent way of life, the way of love.

Love is self-giving and seeks the other person's good. And though emotions are somehow linked with it, genuine love is not a mere emotion; it is a willful commitment, a life-style, a way of living. We do not have the option of selecting the time and the people to whom we will relate in love; we are to relate in love to everyone on a daily basis. And even though we cannot control how other people will treat us, we can control, and are accountable, for the manner in which we respond to those people.

Jesus said that there should be an added dimension to a Christian's love. If we love those who love us, repay good deed for good deed, and lend with the expectation of having everything

returned in full, we will be doing no more than the world does. Jesus had this in mind when he instructed his followers, "And whoever shall force you to go one mile, go with him two" (Matthew 5:41). This verse probably refers to a common practice of the Roman soldiers in occupied Palestine. Any citizen could be compelled by the soldiers to carry baggage or supplies for a certain distance. Jesus was saying that Christian love would compel one to go farther and perform better than anyone has a right to expect. It is in the second, voluntary mile that the Christian's love is set apart from that of the world.

Further applications of the love for which Jesus looks are given in the closing verses. Jesus indicates that his followers should not involve themselves in the self-righteous acts of judging and condemning their neighbors. Though man possesses the tendency to act in such a manner, he does not possess the capacity or the perspective to discriminate concerning the motives of another person.

The true spirit and attitude of love is that of

forgiveness and generosity. Giving and forgiving bring about a wonderful consequence. It will be given to you, not only in kind, but in good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over. When love is genuine it always activates the inexhaustible resources of God's grace and goodness. Christians should be known as givers, not condemners.

Christian love, then, does not attempt to discriminate between persons; it acts regardless of the merits of the other person. There are three reasons for this: (1) because we are to treat others in the same way that we desire to be treated (v. 31), (2) because we have already been treated graciously by the Most High, himself (vv. 35, 36), and (3) because we should be merciful, just as our Heavenly Father is merciful.

However, it must be admitted that relating in positive love is a goal to strive for rather than a completed reality in any person's life. But the prize is worth the struggle. Jesus said "... you will be sons of the Most High."

Nathan Barber is pastor, First, Bay St. Louis.

Jesus' last public appeal for people to believe in him

By Charles Wesley
John 12:20-25, 31-37, 42-43

Jesus was nearing the end of his earthly ministry. He makes a last appeal for people to believe in him before he dies on the cross. This lesson provides ample opportunity to evaluate our commitment to Jesus Christ.



Wesley
who were worshipping the Jewish God but had not converted to Judaism or they had become Jewish proselytes. The Greeks went to Philip with their request probably because of Philip's Greek name. Philip, then consulted with Andrew and the two of them went to Jesus with the Greek's request. The coming of the Greeks is a sign of how Gentiles would later be drawn

I. The Greeks seek Jesus (12:20-22). Certain Greeks who were attending the Passover celebration went to Philip to state their desire to see Jesus. These Greeks were probably God-fearers

to Christ.

II. The coming of Jesus' hour (12:23-25). Jesus uses the event of the Greeks seeking him to point out that his hour had come. The hour when Jesus would be glorified was the time that Jesus' ministry would climax by providing the means for salvation for Jews and Gentiles.

Jesus explained his statement by using an illustration from nature. A grain of wheat must first die before it can multiply. Jesus must die in order to give spiritual life to many. We, too, must die to self and plant our lives by faith in Jesus Christ if we are to receive eternal life and bear fruit. Following Christ means being obedient to Christ regardless of the cost.

III. Jesus' commitment to his mission (12:31-33). Because Jesus was willing to be obedient to God's will to die on the cross, judgment came upon the world's sins. Furthermore, the

ruler of this world (Satan) would lose his authority in the world. On the cross Satan was defeated. As a result we do not have to yield ourselves to the temptations of Satan. In addition, Jesus, through his death on the cross, will draw all men unto himself. Of course, not everyone will be saved, but those who respond in faith to Jesus, whether Jew or Gentile will be saved.

IV. The people's lack of understanding (12:34-36a). The people were confused about Jesus. They understood the Law to teach that the Christ would remain forever. So, why would Jesus speak of his death if he was the Messiah?

One finds it hard to accept that which he does not understand. Therefore, Jesus says that persons must walk in his light to have spiritual understanding. The consequence of refusing the light Jesus offers is to live in darkness. One living in darkness will wander about never finding his place in life. However, those who respond in faith to Christ, who is the light, will become "sons of light." In other words, those who believe in Christ take on the character of Christ.

V. Why the people failed to believe (12:36b-37, 42-43). Throughout Jesus' ministry he performed many miracles to reveal his deity and his mission to redeem the world. Yet, people remained spiritually blind and refused to believe in Jesus. A great inconsistency is to accept so many things in life as fact even though one does not fully understand them, and then not accept Jesus as one's Savior because he cannot be completely understood. Still others refuse to make a commitment to Christ because they are afraid of the actions of others. Jesus considered the cost and committed himself to die on the cross so we might be saved. Yet people consider the criticism of others in the community too great a price to pay.

As we evaluate our commitment to Jesus Christ, one question should be asked: Are we willing to follow Christ regardless of the cost? We are drawn to Christ by his sacrificial death on the cross. However, we must decide to accept him as Savior and Lord.

Charles Wesley is pastor, Morrison Chapel Church, Cleveland.

"Lord of Life" — He is our resurrection, our hope

By Robert M. Hanvey
John 11:17-27, 38-44

You know this is one of those great teaching chapters of the Bible. From it we learn a great deal concerning death. The teaching comes from Jesus himself who was summoned by Mary and Martha because of the death of their brother, Lazarus.



Hanvey
The Bible teaches us that death is, in fact, not a separation from God but a sleep in the Lord Jesus Christ. With this thought in mind we see some characteristics in the life of Jesus concerning death which ought to be emulated in our lives.

Let me first just give you some of the concerns which I see. Human beings are often concerned far beyond their own comprehension when death strikes. For instance, we feel as though the end of the world has come; there is no further hope; there is no light at the end of the tunnel; there is absolutely no way to survive; no way to keep going. Jesus teaches us a great deal about the matter of death or sleep

in order to cope with the issue.

We recognize that many people fear death. For the Christian there is no need to fear death. Death is the instrument through which we "go home" to be with Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. As long as we are here in the physical, we cannot be with him in the spirit save by the indwelling power of his Spirit.

In the 11th chapter of the book of John, Jesus teaches about death. Lazarus had been dead four days before Jesus was ready to share with Mary and Martha his personal concern and his personal sympathy. This shows us something about Jesus' concern about and his participation in the issue of death. He was in no hurry because he knew he was in control, and we need to adopt that kind of understanding, too. He is in control of life and death.

Martha was disappointed that Jesus had not come earlier, not only to heal Lazarus, but to keep him from dying. Jesus answered and said, "He is going to rise again," — these are some of the most poignant words we have in the Holy Writ. "I am the resurrection and the life. He

that believeth in me, though he were dead yet shall he live." Those words are used over and over again to give comfort and assurance to those who are in moments of bereavement. Surely, the Lord Jesus Christ tried as best he could to give Martha the same assurance that you and I need in moments of physical death.

Martha believed in the future resurrection, of course, but seemed unaware of Jesus' complete association with the resurrection. Jesus told her that whoever believed in him would never, never die. Then Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead. Great honor and glory were brought to him for having done so, and truly when we see how Jesus handled the situation, we recognize he did not become overly concerned; he did not lose sight; he did not lose the ability to cope; he did not become so anxious he could not do anything. We learn a great deal about how we ought to react in moments of death. We are awe stricken by the event of death through the suddenness or perhaps the longevity of the death process which comes upon one of our loved ones or friends. Could it be that if we were ready to look at and study through this particular passage of Scripture we would come

to a new understanding of how we should react in the experience of death?

Adults who are dealing with reality of their own death or the deaths of loved ones can find help in the study of this particular chapter. The statement we need to believe in is that Jesus can challenge us in our faith, right now, right where we are today, with respect to the physical death experience. Martha's concern about Jesus' delay can be a help to me and you in order to understand and deal with our frustrations. Jesus is not in a hurry. Things happen in his own time, on his schedule, when he's ready so he can receive the honor and the glory. We need to be giving some real concern today to the teaching of the Gospel of John as it relates through Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, the Giver of life and the Receiver in death, his concerns about death. Jesus had a unique role in the resurrection in that he is the first fruits from the dead. We need to realize during the course of this study that we are going to die. As Christians we are going to die in Jesus. He is our hope. He is our resurrection. He is our stay. He is our life.

Robert Hanvey is pastor, First, Hazlehurst.

Baptist Record

Who gets resources: young or old?

Baptist geriatrics expert demands equal treatment

By Karen Benson

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (BP) — The "graying of America" is one of the most significant trends affecting American society and rapidly is leading to a crisis in health care for the elderly, a leading Southern Baptist expert on geriatrics claimed.

Robert Wilkerson called for an increased awareness of ethical dilemmas in caring for the elderly and urged a return to the traditional physician-patient relationship during a speech at the Southern Baptist Woman's Missionary Union office here.

Wilkerson is corporate vice president for geriatric services for Baptist Medical Centers in Birmingham. He was a guest speaker during a seminar on "The Older Adult: Health Care Concerns," sponsored by the Baptist Medical Center Princeton.

Since the beginning of the century, the number of elderly citizens has increased eightfold, Wilkerson said.

In 1900, only 3 million — or 4 percent — of all Americans were 65 or older. In 1980, the older population accounted for 11.3 percent of all Americans, and the number continues to grow, he said.

The U.S. Census Bureau estimates that by the year 2030, up to 21 percent of the American population will be older than 64.

"This astronomical growth has been precipitated by a lowering of the birth rate, coupled with a simultaneous increase in life expectancy," he explained.

At the same time, the huge federal deficit is putting pressure on the government to eliminate or drastically reduce expenditures," he added.

"This obvious mismatch between needs and resources has placed us in a dilemma in which needs are the

greatest and resources are at the very lowest."

Thus, allocation of resources is one of the "most important ethical issues in dealing with the elderly," Wilkerson said. "If we accept the fact that our society has limited resources and many goals, we must ask ourselves the questions: Who will we give the resources to? The young or the old? The physically fit or the sick? The rich or the poor? If public funding is limited, what share of those funds are we willing to allocate to meet the healthcare needs of the elderly?"

To help stretch the dollar, healthcare providers seriously have tried to reduce the cost without reducing quality, Wilkerson said. "They have attempted to do this by eliminating waste, avoiding duplication of services and increasing productivity. However, these methods have almost totally been exhausted. Now, the era of cost-containment is giving way, and we have begun to consider the rationing of health care."

But then other questions arise, he said: "Are we willing, as a society, to reduce cost by rationing health care for the elderly? Is it fair or just to do so?"

Allowing the elderly to make their own decisions regarding health care becomes another area of ethical concern, Wilkerson added. "It is unfortunate that a paternalistic approach is often taken with older people, even when there is no reason to suspect that they are not competent to make decisions," he said.

No matter how noble the motivation

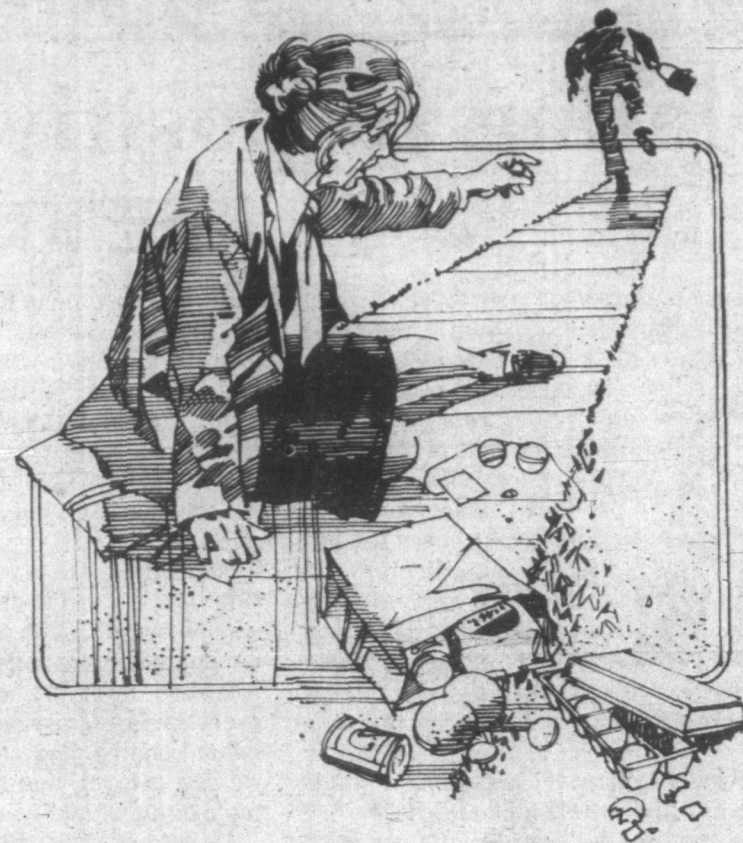
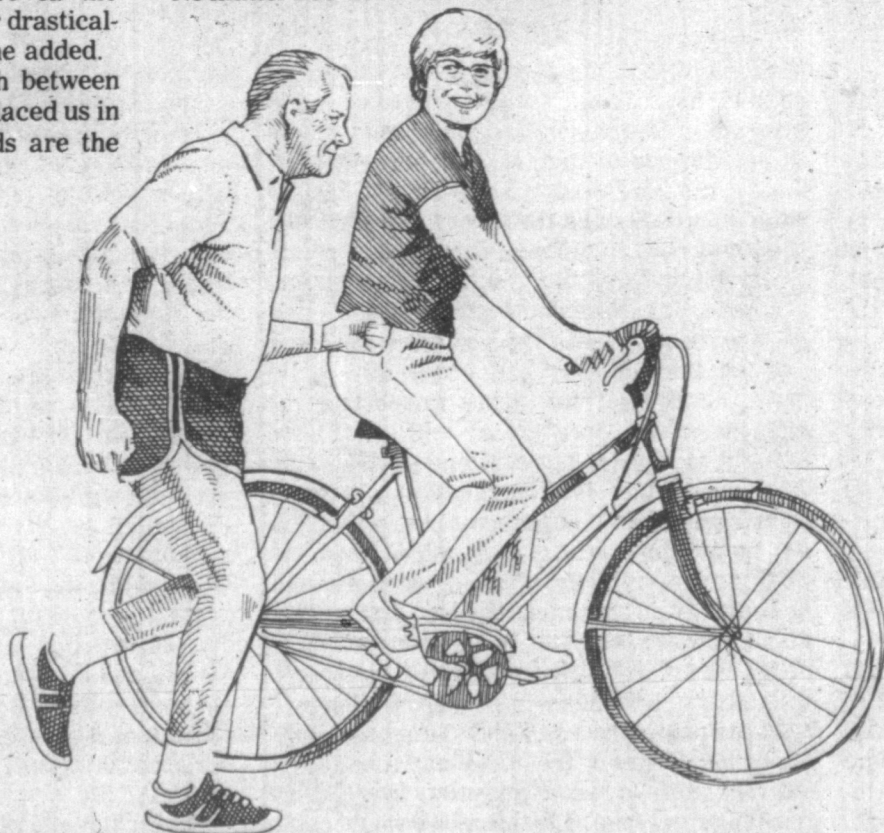
behind such paternalism, "it is a form of discrimination and should be rejected," he said. "It is based on ageist premises which assume that to be old is to be poor, sickly, forgetful and dependent. This definitely is not the case or condition of the majority of the elderly population."

In addition, the involvement of third parties "has brought about a situation in which little secrecy or confidentiality exists anymore," Wilkerson said. "The patient may tell the doctor things in confidence, but they go on the chart. And the chart is available to just about anyone in town."

Said Wilkerson, "Patients should know when they select a doctor it will be someone who will listen to them, who will counsel with them, who will take their needs seriously and respect their confidences."

While these and other ethical concerns do exist regarding the elderly, there should not be any special ethical issues unique to the elderly, Wilkerson said. "Once past childhood, age in and of itself should have no influence on ethical issues in treatment decisions, non-treatment, and the distribution of health resources."

Karen Benson writes for WMU, SBC.



Disguised as elderly, woman shares travails

By Karen Benson

Patricia Moore was the featured speaker at the seminar on "The Older Adult: Health Care Concerns," sponsored by Baptist Medical Center Princeton in Birmingham, Ala.

Moore described her experiment in which she disguised herself to look like an 85-year-old woman. For three years, she traveled throughout the United States and Canada in this disguise.

She encountered support, helpfulness and love — and rejection, hatred, anger and fear. She was even mugged by a gang of young boys, and to this day carries the pain and the scars, not to mention the heartbreaking memory.

It was all for a purpose — to see how people respond to the elderly, how products do or do not work for the elderly and how environments impact the elderly.

Her firm, Moore & Associates, develops products, services and marketing strategies for consumers age 50 and older.

"The very survival of these people in our society borders on the phenomenal," Moore said of the elderly.

She described how a simple ride on a city bus, an attempt to cross a busy street and a climb up an apartment stairwell all turned into vicious nightmares when she tried them all as an "elderly woman."

She learned from those experiences, and now she has some things to say to younger generations:

— "None of us is disabled. We are all differently able. None of us has the right to determine that some people are any less deserving than the other.

— "As a society, we always shun those who remind us of our darkest fears. The elderly remind us of our own mortality — that we, too, will

one day be old. We need to be careful how we treat our elderly. They're being made to feel that somehow, they just don't fit in anymore. That they're even in the way.

— "The elderly are no different than the rest of us. All they want is the opportunity to exist in peace and happiness. All we really need to do is treat each other as we want to be treated ourselves.

— "We are each of us changing. With change comes our ability or inability to cope. How we adapt to change will determine the quality of our life."

Perhaps the most frightening discovery she made during her three-year trek, "In America, the fear of dying early has been replaced by the fear of living too long."

Baptist Record

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